

# FRONTISPIECE

Vol. I.



*The Discovery of the Foundling.*

*Published as the Act directs. 15 July 1780.*

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HISTORY  
OF  
TOM JONES,  
A  
FOUNDLING.

By HENRY FIELDING, Esquire.

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—Mores hominum multorum vidit—

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VOL. I.

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L O N D O N :

Printed for JOSEPH WENMAN,  
No. 144, FLEET-STREET.

M.DCC.LXXX.

THE  
 HISTORY  
 OF  
 THE  
 BUILDING

BY HENRY FIELDING, Esq.



Vol. I.

LONDON:  
 Printed by J. B. L. & Co. 1785.

1785

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TO the HONOURABLE

GEORGE LYTTLETON, Esq;

One of the Lords Commissioners of the  
TREASURY.

S I R,

**N**OTWITHSTANDING your constant refusal, when I have asked leave to prefix your name to this dedication, I must still insist on my right to desire your protection of this work.

To you, Sir, it is owing that this history was ever begun. It was by your desire that I first thought of such a composition. So many years have since passed, that you may have, perhaps, forgotten this circumstance: but your desires are to me in the nature of

VOL. III. a commands:

## vi DEDICATION.

commands; and the impression of them is never to be erased from my memory.

Again, Sir, without your assistance this history had never been completed. Be not startled at the assertion. I do not intend to draw on you the suspicion of being a romance writer. I mean no more than that I partly owe to you my existence during great part of the time which I have employed in composing it; another matter which it may be necessary to remind you of; since there are certain actions of which you are apt to be extremely forgetful; but of these I hope I shall always have a better memory than yourself.

Lastly, it is owing to you that the history appears what it now is. If there be in this work, as some have been pleased to say, a stronger picture of a truly benevolent mind than is to be found in any other, who that knows you, and a particular acquaintance of yours, will doubt whence that benevolence hath been copied! The world will not, I believe, make me the compliment of thinking I took it from myself. I care not: This they shall own, that the two persons from whom I have taken it, that is to say, two of the best and worthiest men in the world, are strongly and zealously my friends. I might be contented with this, and yet my  
vanity

# D E D I C A T I O N. vii

vanity will add a third to the number : and him one of the greatest and noblest, not only in his rank, but in every public and private virtue. But here, whilst my gratitude for the princely benefactions of the Duke of *Bedford* bursts from my heart, you must forgive my reminding you, that it was you who first recommended me to the notice of my benefactor.

And what are your objections to the allowance of the honour which I have solicited? Why, you have commended the book so warmly, that you should be ashamed of reading your name before the Dedication. Indeed, Sir, if the Book itself doth not make you ashamed of your commendations, nothing that I can here write will, or ought. I am not to give up my right to your protection and patronage, because you have commended my book : for though I acknowledge so many obligations to you, I do not add this to the number ; in which friendship, I am convinced, hath so little share ; since that neither can bias your judgment, nor pervert your integrity. An enemy may at any time obtain your commendation by only deserving it : and the utmost which the faults of your friends can hope for is your silence ; or, perhaps, if too severely accused, your gentle palliation.

In short, Sir, I suspect that your dislike of public praise is your true objection to granting my request. I have observed that you have, in common with my two other friends, an unwillingness to hear the least mention of your own virtues; that, as a great poet says of one of you, (he might justly have said it of all three) you

Do good by stealth, and blush to find it fame.

If men of this disposition are as careful to shun applause, as others are to escape censure, how just must be your apprehension of your character falling into my hands; since what would not a man have reason to dread, if attacked by an author who had received from him injuries equal to my obligations to you!

And will not this dread of censure increase in proportion to the matter which a man is conscious of having afforded for it? If his whole life, for instance, should have been one continued subject of satire, he may well tremble when an incensed satyrists takes him in hand. Now, Sir, if we apply this to your modest aversion to panegyric, how reasonable will your fears of me appear!

Yet surely you might have gratified my ambition, from this single confidence, that  
I shall

## D E D I C A T I O N. ix

I shall always prefer the indulgence of your inclinations to the satisfaction of my own. A very strong instance of which I shall give you in this address; in which I am determined to follow the example of all other dedicators, and will consider not what my patron really deserves to have written, but what he will be best pleased to read.

Without further preface then, I here present you with the labours of some years of my life. What merit these labours have, is already known to yourself. If, from your favourable judgment, I have conceived some esteem for them, it cannot be imputed to vanity; since I should have agreed as implicitly to your opinion, had it been given in favour of any other man's production. Negatively, at least, I may be allowed to say, that had I been sensible of any great demerit in the work, you are the last person to whose protection I would have ventured to recommend it.

From the name of my patron, indeed, I hope my Reader will be convinced, at his very entrance on this work, that he will find in the whole course of it nothing prejudicial to the cause of religion and virtue; nothing inconsistent with the strictest rules of decency, nor which can offend even the chastest

eye in the perusal. On the contrary, I declare, that to recommend goodness and innocence hath been my sincere endeavour in this history. This honest purpose you have been pleased to think I have attained; and to say the truth, it is likeliest to be attained in books of this kind: for an example is a kind of picture, in which virtue becomes as it were an object of sight, and strikes us with an idea of that loveliness, which *Plato* asserts there is in her naked charms.

Besides displaying that beauty of virtue which may attract the admiration of mankind, I have attempted to engage a stronger motive to human action in her favour, by convincing men, that their true interest directs them to a pursuit of her. For this purpose I have shewn, that no acquisitions of guilt can compensate the loss of that solid inward comfort of mind, which is the sure companion of innocence and virtue; nor can in the least balance the evil of that horror and anxiety which, in their room, guilt introduces into our bosoms. And again, that as these acquisitions are in themselves generally worthless, so are the means to attain them not only base and infamous, but at best uncertain, and always full of danger. Lastly, I have endeavoured strongly to inculcate, that virtue and innocence can  
scarce



## DEDICATION. xi

scarce ever be injured but by indiscretion ; and it is this alone which often betrays them into the snares that deceit and villainy spread for them. A moral which I have the more industriously laboured, as the teaching it is, of all others, the likeliest to be attended with success ; since, I believe, it is much easier to make good men wise, than to make bad men good.

For these purposes I have employed all the wit and humour of which I am master in the following history ; wherein I have endeavoured to laugh mankind out of their favourite follies and vices. How far I have succeeded in this good attempt, I shall submit to the candid Reader, with only two requests : First, That he will excuse some parts of it, if they fall short of that little merit which I hope may appear in others.

I will detain you, Sir, no longer. Indeed I have run into a preface, while I professed to write a dedication. But how can it be otherwise ? I dare not praise you ; and the only means I know of to avoid it, when you are in my thoughts, are either to be entirely silent, or to turn my thoughts to some other subject.

## xlii DEDICATION.

Pardon, therefore, what I have said in this epistle, not only without your consent, but absolutely against it; and give me at least leave, in this public manner, to declare, that I am, with the highest respect and gratitude,

S I R,

*Your most obliged*

*Obedient humble servant,*

HENRY FIELDING.

T H E

THE  
HISTORY  
OF A  
FOUNDLING.

BOOK I.

*Containing as much of the birth of the Foundling as is necessary or proper to acquaint the Reader with in the beginning of this history.*

CHAP. I.

*The introduction to the work, or bill of fare to the feast.*

**A**N author ought to consider himself, not as a gentleman who gives a private or eleemosynary treat, but rather as one who keeps a public ordinary, at which all persons are welcome for their money. In the former case it is well known, that the entertainer provides what fare he pleases; and though this should be very indifferent, and utterly  
B disagreeable

disagreeable to the taste of his company, they must not find any fault; nay, on the contrary, good-breeding forces them outwardly to approve and to commend whatever is set before them. Now the contrary of this happens to the master of an ordinary. Men who pay for what they eat, will insist on gratifying their palates, however nice and whimsical these may prove; and if every thing is not agreeable to their taste, will challenge a right to censure, to abuse, and to d——n their dinner without controul.

To prevent therefore giving offence to their customers by any such disappointment, it hath been usual, with the honest and well-meaning host, to provide a bill of fare, which all persons may peruse at their first entrance into the house; and, having thence acquainted themselves with the entertainment which they may expect, may either stay and regale with what is provided for them, or may depart to some other ordinary better accommodated to their taste.

As we do not disdain to borrow wit or wisdom from any man who is capable of lending us either, we have condescended to take a hint from these honest victuallers, and shall prefix not only a general bill of fare to our whole entertainment, but shall likewise give the reader particular bills to every course which is to be served up in this and the ensuing volumes.

The provision then which we have here made, is no other than Human Nature. Nor do I fear that my sensible Reader, though most luxurious in his taste, will start, cavil, or be offended, because I have named but one article. The tortoise, as the Alderman of Bristol, well learned in eating, knows by much experience, besides the delicious Calibash and Calipee, contains many different kinds of food; nor can the learned reader be ignorant, that in Human Nature, though here collected under one general name, is such prodigious variety, that a cook will have sooner gone through all the several species of animal  
and

and vegetable food in the world, than an author will be able to exhaust so extensive a subject.

An objection may perhaps be apprehended from the more delicate, that this dish is too common and vulgar; for what else is the subject of all the romances, novels, plays, and poems, with which the stalls abound? Many exquisite viands might be rejected by the epicure, if it was a sufficient cause for his contemning of them as common and vulgar, that something was to be found in the most paucity alleys under the same name. In reality, true Nature is as difficult to be met with in authors, as the Bayonne ham or Bologna sausage is to be found in the shops.

But the whole, to continue the same metaphor, consists in the cookery of the author; for, as Mr. Pope tells us,

True Wit is Nature to advantage dress'd,  
What oft' was thought, but ne'er so well express'd.

The same animal which hath the honour to have some part of his flesh eaten at the table of a duke, may perhaps be degraded in another part, and some of his limbs gibbeted, as it were, in the vilest stall in town. Where then lies the difference between the food of the nobleman and the porter, if both are at dinner on the same ox or calf, but in the seasoning, the dressing, the garnishing, and the setting forth? Hence the one provokes and incites the most languid appetite, and the other turns and palls that which is the sharpest and keenest.

In like manner, the excellence of the mental entertainment consists less in the subject, than in the author's skill in well dressing it up. How pleased therefore will the reader be to find, that we have, in the following work, adhered closely to one of the highest principles of the best cook which the present age, or perhaps that of Heliogabalus, hath produced? This great man, as is well known, to all polite lovers of eating,

eating, begins at first by setting plain things before his hungry guests, rising afterwards by degrees, as their stomachs may be supposed to decrease, the very quintessence of sauce and spices. In like manner, we shall represent Human Nature at first to the keen appetite of our Reader, in that more plain and simple manner in which it is found in the country, and shall hereafter hash and ragoo it with all the high French and Italian seasoning of affectation and vice which courts and cities afford. By these means, we doubt not but our reader may be rendered desirous to read on for ever, as the great person, just above mentioned, is supposed to have made some persons eat.

Having premised thus much, we will now detain those, who like our bill of fare, no longer from their diet, and shall proceed directly to serve up the first course of our history for their entertainment.

## C H A P. II.

*A short description of Squire Allworthy, and a fuller account of Miss Bridget Allworthy, his sister.*

**I**N that part of the western division of this kingdom, which is commonly called Somersetshire, there lately lived (and perhaps lives still) a gentleman whose name was Allworthy, and who might well be called the favourite of both Nature and Fortune; for both of these seem to have contended which should bless and enrich him most. In this contention, Nature may seem to some to have come off victorious, as she bestowed on him many gifts; while Fortune had only one gift in her power; but in pouring forth this, she was so very profuse, that others perhaps may think this single endowment to have been more than equivalent to all the various blessings which he enjoyed from Nature. From the former of these, he derived an agreeable person, a sound constitution, a solid understanding;

derstanding, and a benevolent heart; by the latter, he was decreed to the inheritance of one of the largest estates in the county.

This gentleman had, in his youth, married a very worthy and beautiful woman, of whom he had been extremely fond: By her he had three children, all of whom died in their infancy. He had likewise had the misfortune of burying this beloved wife herself, above five years before the time in which this history chuses to set out. This loss, however great, he bore like a man of sense and constancy; though it must be confessed, he would often talk a little whimsically on this head: for he sometimes said, he looked on himself as still married, and considered his wife as only gone a little before him a journey which he should most certainly, sooner or later, take after her; and that he had not the least doubt of meeting her again, in a place where he should never part with her more. Sentiments for which his sense was arraigned by one part of his neighbours, his religion by a second, and his sincerity by a third.

He now lived, for the most part, retired in the country, with one sister, for whom he had a very tender affection. This lady was now somewhat past the age of thirty; an æra at which, in the opinion of the malicious, the title of old maid may, with no impropriety, be assumed. She was of that species of women, whom you rather commend for good qualities than beauty, and who are generally called by their own sex, very good sort of women—as good a sort of woman, Madam, as you would wish to know. Indeed, she was so far from regretting want of beauty, that she never once mentioned that perfection (if it can be called one) without contempt; and would often thank God she was not as handsome as Miss such a one, whom perhaps beauty had led into errors, which she might have otherwise avoided. Miss Bridget Allworthy (for that was the name of this lady) very rightly conceived the charms of person in  
a woman

a woman to be no better than snares for herself, as well as for others; and yet so discreet was she in her conduct, that her prudence was as much on the guard, as if she had all the snares to apprehend which were ever laid for her whole sex. Indeed, I have observed (though it may seem unaccountable to the reader) that this guard of prudence, like the trained bands, is always readiest to go on duty where there is least danger. It often basely and cowardly deserts those paragons for whom the men are all wishing, fighting, dying, and spreading every net in their power; and constantly attends at the heels of that higher order of women, for whom the other sex have a more distant and awful respect, and whom (from despair, I suppose, of success) they never venture to attack.

Reader, I think proper, before we proceed any farther together, to acquaint thee, that I intend to digress, through this whole history, as often as I see occasion: of which I am myself a better judge than any pitiful critic whatever. And here I must desire all those critics to mind their own business, and not to intermeddle with affairs, or works, which no ways concern them: for, till they produce the authority by which they are constituted judges, I shall not plead to their jurisdiction.

### C H A P. III.

*An odd accident which befel Mr. Allworthy, at his return home. The decent behaviour of Mrs. Deborah Wilkins; with some proper animadversions on bastards.*

I Have told my reader, in the preceding chapter, that Mr. Allworthy inherited a large fortune; that he had a good heart, and no family. Hence, doubtless, it will be concluded by many, that he lived like an honest man, owed no one a shilling, took nothing but what was his own, kept a good house, entertain-  
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ed his neighbours with a hearty welcome at his table, and was charitable to the poor, *i. e.* to those who had rather beg than work, by giving them the offals from it; that he died immensely rich, and built an hospital.

And true it is, that he did many of these things; but, had he done nothing more, I should have left him to have recorded his own merit on some fair free-stone over the door of that hospital. Matters of a much more extraordinary kind are to be the subject of this history, or I should grossly mispend my time in writing so voluminous a work; and you, my sagacious friend, might, with equal profit and pleasure, travel through some pages, which certain droll authors have been facetiously pleased to call *The History of England*.

Mr. Allworthy had been absent a full quarter of a year in London on some very particular business, though I know not what it was, but judge of its importance, by its having detained him so long from home, whence he had not been absent a month at a time during the space of many years. He came to his house very late in the evening, and after a short supper with his sister, retired much fatigued to his chamber. Here, having spent some minutes on his knees, a custom which he never broke through on any account, he was preparing to step into bed, when, upon opening the clothes, to his great surprize, he beheld an infant, wrapt up in some coarse linen, in a sweet and profound sleep, between his sheets. He stood some time lost in astonishment at this sight; but, as good nature had always the ascendant in his mind, he soon began to be touched with sentiments of compassion for the little wretch before him. He then rang his bell, and ordered an elderly woman servant to rise immediately and come to him; and in the mean time was so eager in contemplating the beauty of innocence, appearing in those lively colours with which infancy and sleep always display

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it, that his thoughts were too much engaged to reflect that he was in his shirt, when the matron came in. She had indeed given her master sufficient time to dress himself; for out of respect to him, and regard to decency, she had spent many minutes in adjusting her hair at the looking glass, notwithstanding all the hurry in which she had been summoned by the servant, and though her master, for ought she knew, lay expiring in an apoplexy, or in some other fit.

It will not be wondered at, that a creature, who had so strict a regard to decency in her own person, should be shocked at the least deviation from it in another. She therefore no sooner opened the door, and saw her master standing by the bed-side in his shirt with a candle in his hand, than she started back in a most terrible fright, and might perhaps have swooned away, had he not now recollected his being undrest, and put an end to her terrors, by desiring her to stay without the door, till he had thrown some clothes over his back, and was become incapable of shocking the pure eyes of Mrs. Deborah Wilkins, who, tho' in the fifty-second year of her age, vowed she had never beheld a man without his coat. Sneerers and prophane wits may perhaps laugh at her first fright; yet my graver reader, when he considers the time of night, the summons from her bed, and the situation in which she found her master, will highly justify and applaud her conduct; unless the prudence, which must be supposed to attend maidens at that period of life, at which Mrs. Deborah had arrived, should a little lessen his admiration.

When Mrs. Deborah returned into the room, and was acquainted by her master with the finding the little infant, her consternation was rather greater than his had been; nor could she refrain from crying out, with great horror of accent as well as look, "My good Sir; what's to be done?" Mr. Allworthy answered, She must take care of the child that even-

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ing, and in the morning he would give orders to provide it a nurse. "Yes, Sir, (says she) and I hope your worship will send out your warrant to take up the Hussy its mother (for she must be one of the neighbourhood) and I should be glad to see her committed to Bridewell, and whipt at the cart's tail. Indeed such wicked sluts cannot be too severely punished. I'll warrant it is not her first, by her impudence in laying it to your worship"—"In laying it to me, Deborah, (answered Allworthy) I can't think she hath any such design. I suppose she hath only taken this method to provide for her child; and truly I am glad she hath not done worse." "I don't know what is worse (cries Deborah) than for such wicked strumpets to lay their sins at honest men's doors; and though your worship knows your own innocence, yet the world is censorious; and it hath been many an honest man's hap to pass for the father of children he never begot; and if your worship should provide for the child, it may make the people the apter to believe: Besides, why should your worship provide for what the parish is obliged to maintain? For my own part, if it was an honest man's child indeed; but for my own part it goes against me to touch these misbegotten wretches, whom I don't look upon as my fellow-creatures. Faugh, how it stinks! It doth not smell like a Christian. If I might be so bold as to give my advice, I would have it put in a basket, and sent out and laid at the church-warden's door. It is a good night, only a little rainy and windy; and if it was well wrapt up, and put in a warm basket, it is two to one but it lives, till it is found in the morning. But if it should not, we have discharged our duty in taking proper care of it; and it is perhaps better for such creatures to die in a state of innocence, than to grow up, and imitate their mothers; for nothing better can be expected of them."

There were some strokes in this speech, which perhaps

perhaps would have offended Mr. Allworthy, had he strictly attended to it; but he had now got one of his fingers into the infant's hand, which, by its gentle pressure, seeming to implore his assistance, had certainly out-pleaded the eloquence of Mrs. Deborah, had it been ten times greater than it was. He now gave Mrs. Deborah positive orders to take the child to her own bed, and to call up a maid-servant to provide it pap, and other things against it waked. He likewise ordered that proper clothes should be procured for it early in the morning, and that it should be brought to himself as soon as he was stirring.

Such was the discernment of Mrs. Wilkins, and such the respect she bore her master, under whom she enjoyed a most excellent place, that her scruples gave way to his peremptory commands; and she took the child under her arms, without any apparent disgust at the illegality of its birth; and declaring it was a sweet little infant, walked off with it to her own chamber.

Allworthy here betook himself to those pleasing slumbers which a heart that hungers after goodness, is apt to enjoy when thoroughly satisfied: as these are possibly sweeter than what are occasioned by any other hearty meal, I should take more pains to display them to the reader, if I knew any air to recommend him to for the procuring such an appetite.

#### CHAP. IV.

*The reader's neck brought into danger by a description; his escape, and the great condescension of Miss Bridget Allworthy.*

THE gothic stile of building could produce nothing nobler than Mr. Allworthy's house. There was an air of grandeur in it that struck you with

with awe, and rivalled the beauties of the best Grecian architecture; and it was as commodious within, as venerable without.

It stood on the south-east side of a hill, but nearer the bottom than the top of it, so as to be sheltered from the north-east by a grove of old oaks, which rose above it in a gradual ascent of near half a mile; and yet high enough to enjoy a most charming prospect of the valley beneath.

In the midst of the grove was a fine lawn, sloping down towards the house, near the summit of which rose a plentiful spring, gushing out of a rock covered with firs, and forming a constant cascade of about thirty feet, not carried down a regular flight of steps, but tumbling in a natural fall over the broken and mossy stones, till it came to the bottom of the rock; then running off in a pebbly channel, that with many lesser falls winded along, till it fell into a lake at the foot of a hill, about a quarter of a mile below the house on the south side, and which was seen from every room in the front. Out of this lake, which filled the center of a beautiful plain, embellished with groupes of beeches and elms, and fed with sheep, issued a river, that, for several miles, was seen to meander through an amazing variety of meadows and woods, till it emptied itself into the sea; with a large arm of which, and an island beyond it, the prospect was closed.

On the right of this valley opened another of less extent, adorned with several villages, and terminated by one of the towers of an old ruined abbey, grown over with ivy, and part of the front, which remained still entire.

The left-hand scene presented the view of a fine park, composed of very unequal ground, and agreeably varied with all the diversity that hills, lawns, wood and water, laid out with admirable taste, but owing less to art than to nature, could give. Beyond this the country gradually rose into a ridge of wild mountains,

mountains, the tops of which were above the clouds.

It was now the middle of May, and the morning was remarkably serene, when Mr. Allworthy walked forth on the terrace, where the dawn opened every minute that lovely prospect we have before described to his eye. And now, having sent forth streams of light, which ascended the blue firmament before him as harbingers preceding his pomp, in the full blaze of his majesty up rose the sun: than which one object alone in this lower creation could be more glorious, and that Mr. Allworthy himself presented: a human being replete with benevolence, meditating in what manner he might render himself most acceptable to his creator, by doing most good to his creatures.

Reader, take care; I have unadvisedly led thee to the top of as high a hill as Mr. Allworthy's, and how to get thee down without breaking thy neck, I do not well know. However, let us e'en venture to slide down together; for Miss Bridget rings her bell, and Mr. Allworthy is summoned to breakfast, where I must attend, and, if you please, shall be glad of your company.

The usual compliments having passed between Mr. Allworthy and Miss Bridget, and the tea being poured out, he summoned Mrs. Wilkins, and told his sister he had a present for her: for which she thanked him, imagining, I suppose, it had been a gown, or some ornament for her person. Indeed, he very often made her such presents: and she in complacence to him, spent much time in adorning herself. I say, in complacence to him, because she always expressed the greatest contempt for dress, and for those ladies who made it their study.

But if such was her expectation, how was she disappointed, when Mrs. Wilkins, according to the order she had received from her master, produced the little infant! Great surprises, as hath been observed,

served; are apt to be silent; and so was Miss Bridget, till her brother began, and told her the whole story, which, as the reader knows it already, we will not repeat.

Miss Bridget had always expressed so great a regard for what the ladies are pleased to call virtue, and had herself maintained such a severity of character, that it was expected, especially by Mrs. Wilkins, that she would have vented much bitterness on this occasion, and would have voted for sending the child, as a kind of noxious animal, immediately out of the house; but on the contrary, she rather took the good-natured side of the question, intimated some compassion for the helpless creature, and commended her brother's charity in what he had done.

Perhaps the reader may account for this behaviour from her condescension to Mr. Allworthy, when we have informed him, that the good man had ended his narrative with owning a resolution to take care of the child, and to breed him up as his own; for, to acknowledge the truth, she was always ready to oblige her brother, and very seldom, if ever, contradicted his sentiments; she would indeed sometimes make a few observations; as, that men were headstrong, and must have their own way, and would wish she had been blessed with an independent fortune; but these were always vented in a low voice, and at the most amounted only to what is called muttering.

However, what she with-held from the infant, she bestowed with the utmost profuseness on the poor unknown mother, whom she called an impudent slut, a wanton hussy, an audacious harlot, a wicked jade, a vile strumpet, with every other appellation with which the tongue of virtue never fails to lash those who bring a disgrace on the sex.

A consultation was now entered into, how to proceed in order to discover the mother. A scrutiny was first made into the characters of the female servants of the house, who were all acquitted by Mrs. Wilkins,

Wilkins, and with apparent merit; for she had collected them herself, and perhaps it would be difficult to find such another set of scarecrows.

The next step was to examine among the inhabitants of the parish, and this was referred to Mrs. Wilkins, who was to enquire with all imaginable diligence, and to make her report in the afternoon.

Matters being thus settled, Mr. Allworthy withdrew to his study, as was his custom, and left the child to his sister, who, at his desire, had undertaken the care of it.

## CHAP. V.

*Containing a few common matters, with a very uncommon observation upon them.*

WHEN her master was departed, Mrs. Deborah stood silent, expecting her cue from Miss Bridget; for as to what had passed before her master, the prudent housekeeper by no means relied upon it, as she had often known the sentiments of the lady, in her brother's absence, to differ greatly from those which she had expressed in his presence. Miss Bridget did not, however, suffer her to continue long in this doubtful situation; for having looked some time earnestly at the child, as it lay asleep in the lap of Mrs. Deborah, the good lady could not forbear giving it a hearty kiss, at the same time declaring herself wonderfully pleased with its beauty and innocence. Mrs. Deborah no sooner observed this, than she fell to squeezing and kissing, with as great raptures as sometimes inspire the sage dame of forty and five towards a youthful and vigorous bridegroom, crying out in a shrill voice, 'O the dear little creature, the dear, sweet, pretty creature! Well, I vow ' it is as fine a boy as ever was seen!'

These



These exclamations continued, till they were interrupted by the lady, who now proceeded to execute the commission given her by her brother, and gave orders for providing all necessaries for the child, appointing a very good room in the house for his nursery. Her orders were indeed so liberal, that had it been a child of her own, she could not have exceeded them: But, lest the virtuous reader may condemn her for shewing too great regard to a base-born infant, to which all charity by law is condemned as irreligious, we think proper to observe, that she concluded the whole with saying, 'Since it was her brother's whim to adopt the little brat, she supposed little master must be treated with great tenderness; for her part, she could not help thinking it was an encouragement to vice; but that she knew too much of the obstinacy of mankind to oppose any of their ridiculous humours.'

With reflections of this nature, she usually, as has been hinted, accompanied every act of compliance with her brother's inclinations; and surely nothing could more contribute to heighten the merit of this compliance, than a declaration that she knew, at the same time, the folly and unreasonableness of those inclinations, to which she submitted. Tacit obedience implies no force upon the will, and, consequently, may be easily, and without any pains, preserved; but when a wife, a child, a relation, or a friend, performs what we desire, with grumbling and reluctance, with expressions of dislike and dissatisfaction, the manifest difficulty which they undergo must greatly enhance the obligation.

As this is one of those deep observations which very few readers can be supposed capable of making themselves, I have thought proper to lend them my assistance; but this is a favour rarely to be expected in the course of my work. Indeed, I shall seldom or never so indulge him, unless in such instances as  
this,

this, where nothing but the inspiration with which we writers are gifted, can possibly enable any one to make the discovery.

## CHAP. VI.

*Mrs. Deborah is introduced into the parish, with a simile. A short account of Jenny Jones, with the difficulties and discouragements which may attend young women in the pursuit of learning.*

**M**RS. Deborah, having disposed of the child according to the will of her master, now prepared to visit those habitations which were supposed to conceal its mother.

Not otherwise than when a kite, tremendous bird ! is beheld by the feathered generation soaring aloft, and hovering over their heads ; the amorous dove, and every innocent little bird, spread wide the alarm, and fly trembling to their hiding-places. He proudly beats the air, conscious of his dignity, and meditates intended mischief.

So when the approach of Mrs. Deborah was proclaimed through the streets, all the inhabitants ran trembling into their houses, each matron dreading lest the visit should fall to her lot. She with stately steps proudly advances over the field, aloft she bears her tow'ring head, filled with conceit of her own pre-eminence, and schemes to effect her intended discovery.

The sagacious reader will not, from this simile, imagine these poor people had any apprehension of the design with which Mrs. Wilkins was now coming towards them ; but as the great beauty of the simile may possibly sleep these hundred years, till some future commentator shall take this work in hand, I think proper to lend the reader a little assistance in this place.

It is my intention therefore to signify, that, as it is the nature of a kite to devour little birds, so is it the nature of such persons as Mrs. Wilkins, to insult and tyrannize over little people : this being indeed the means which they use to recompense to themselves their extreme servility and condescension to their superiors ; for nothing can be more reasonable, than that slaves and flatterers should exact the same taxes on all below them, which they themselves pay to all above them.

Whenever Mrs. Deborah had occasion to exert any extraordinary condescension to Mrs. Bridget, and by that means had a little lowered her natural disposition, it was usual with her to walk forth among these people, in order to refine her temper, by venting, and, as it were, purging off all ill humours ; on which account, she was by no means a welcome visitant : to say the truth, she was universally hated and dreaded by them all.

On her arrival in this place, she went immediately to the habitation of an elderly matron, to whom, as this matron had the good fortune to resemble herself in the comeliness of her person, as well as in her age, she had generally been more favourable than to any of the rest. To this woman she imparted what had happened, and the design upon which she was come thither that morning. These two began presently to scrutinize the characters of the several young girls, who lived in any of those houses, and at last fixed the strongest suspicion on one Jenny Jones, who they both agreed was the likeliest person to have committed this fact.

This Jenny Jones was no very comely girl, either in her face or person ; but Nature had somewhat compensated the want of beauty with what is generally more esteemed by those ladies, whose judgment is arrived at years of perfect maturity ; for she had given her a very uncommon share of understanding. This gift Jenny had a good deal improved

by erudition. She had lived several years a servant with a schoolmaster, who discovering a great quickness of parts in the girl, and an extraordinary desire of learning, (for every leisure hour she was always found reading in the books of the scholars) had the good-nature, or folly, which the reader pleases to call it, to instruct her so far, that she obtained a very competent skill in the Latin language; and was, perhaps, as good a scholar as most of the young men of quality of the age. This advantage, however, like most others of an extraordinary kind, was attended with some small inconveniencies: for as it is not to be wondered at, that a young woman so well accomplished should have little relish for the society of those whom fortune had made her equals, but whom education had rendered so much her inferiors; so it is matter of no greater astonishment, that this superiority in Jenny, together with that behaviour which is its certain consequence, should produce among the others some little envy and ill-will towards her; and these had, perhaps, secretly burnt in the bosoms of her neighbours, ever since her return from her service.

Their envy did not, however, display itself openly, till poor Jenny, to the surprise of every body, and to the vexation of all the young women in these parts, had publicly shone forth on a Sunday in a new silk gown, with a laced cap, and other proper appendages to these.

The flame, which had before lain in embryo, now burst forth. Jenny had, by her learning, increased her own pride, which none of her neighbours were kind enough to feed with the honour she seemed to demand; and now, instead of respect and adoration, she gained nothing but hatred and abuse by her finery. The whole parish declared she could not come honestly by such things; and parents, instead of wishing their daughters the same, felicitated themselves that their children had them not.

Hence

Hence perhaps it was, that the good woman first mentioned the name of this poor girl to Mrs. Wilkins; but there was another circumstance that confirmed the latter in her suspicion: for Jenny had lately been often at Mr. Allworthy's house. She had officiated as nurse to Miss Bridget, in a violent fit of illness, and had sat up many nights with that lady; besides which, she had been seen there the very day before Mr. Allworthy's return, by Mrs. Wilkins herself, tho' that sagacious person had not at first conceived any suspicion of her on that account: for, as she herself said, 'She had always esteemed Jenny as a very sober girl, (tho' indeed she knew very little of her) and had rather suspected some of those wanton trollops, who gave themselves airs, because, forsooth, they thought themselves handsome.'

Jenny was now summoned to appear in person before Mrs. Deborah, which she immediately did; when Mrs. Deborah, putting on the gravity of a judge, with somewhat more than his austerity, began an oration with the words 'You audacious Trumpet,' in which she proceeded rather to pass sentence on the prisoner than to accuse her.

Tho' Mrs. Deborah was fully satisfied of the guilt of Jenny, from the reasons above shewn, it is possible Mr. Allworthy might have required some stronger evidence to have convicted her; but she saved her accusers any such trouble, by freely confessing the whole fact with which she was charged.

This confession, tho' delivered rather in terms of contrition, as it appeared, did not at all mollify Mrs. Deborah, who now pronounced a second judgment against her in more obprobrious language than before: Nor had it any better success with the bystanders, who were now grown very numerous. Many of them cried out, 'They thought what madam's silk gown would end in;' others spoke sarcastically of her learning. Not a single female was

present, but found some means of expressing her abhorrence of poor Jenny, who bore all very patiently, except the malice of one woman, who reflected upon her person, and, tossing up her nose, said, 'The man must have a good stomach, who would give silk gowns for such sort of trumpery.' Jenny replied to this, with a bitterness which might have surprised a judicious person, who had observed the tranquillity with which she bore all the affronts to her chastity: but her patience was, perhaps, tired out; for this is a virtue which is very apt to be fatigued by exercise.

Mrs. Deborah having succeeded beyond her hopes in her inquiry, returned with much triumph, and, at the appointed hour, made a faithful report to Mr. Allworthy, who was much surprized at the relation; for he had heard of the extraordinary parts and improvements of this girl, whom he intended to have given in marriage, together with a small living, to a neighbouring curate. His concern therefore, on this occasion, was at least equal to the satisfaction which appeared in Mrs. Deborah, and to many readers may seem much more reasonable.

Mrs. Bridget blessed herself, and said, 'For her part, she should never hereafter entertain a good opinion of any woman.' For Jenny before this had the happiness of being much in her good graces.

The prudent housekeeper was again dispatched to bring the unhappy culprit before Mr. Allworthy, in order, not, as it was hoped by some, and expected by all, to be sent to the house of correction; but to receive wholesome admonition and reproof, which those who relish that kind of instructive writing, may peruse in the next chapter.

## C H A P. VII.

*Containing such grave matter, that the reader cannot laugh once through the whole chapter, unless peradventure he should laugh at the author.*

**W**HEN Jenny appeared, Mr. Allworthy took her into his study, and spoke to her as follows :

‘ You know, child, it is in my power, as a magistrate, to punish you very rigorously for what you have done ; and you will, perhaps, be the more apt to fear I should execute that power, because you have, in a manner, laid your sins at my door.

‘ But perhaps this is one reason which hath determined me to act in a milder manner with you. : For, as no private resentment should ever influence a magistrate, I will be so far from considering your having deposited the infant in my house as an aggravation of your offence, that I will suppose, in your favour, this to have proceeded from a natural affection to your child ; since you might have some hopes, to see it thus better provided for, than was in the power of yourself, or its wicked father, to provide for it. I should indeed have been highly offended with you, had you exposed the little wretch in the manner of some inhuman mothers, who seem no less to have abandoned their humanity, than to have parted with their chastity. It is the other part of your offence, therefore, upon which I intend to admonish you ; I mean the violation of your chastity ; a crime, however lightly it may be treated by debauched persons, very heinous in itself, and very dreadful in its consequences.

‘ The heinous nature of this offence must be sufficiently apparent to every Christian, inasmuch as it is

‘ committed in defiance of the laws of our religion,  
 ‘ and of the express commands of him who founded  
 ‘ that religion.

‘ And here its consequences may well be argued to  
 ‘ be dreadful; for what can be more so, than to in-  
 ‘ cur the divine displeasure, by the breach of the di-  
 ‘ vine commands; and that in an instance, against  
 ‘ which the highest vengeance is specifically de-  
 ‘ nounced?

‘ But these things, tho’ too little, I am afraid, re-  
 ‘ garded, are so plain, that mankind, however they  
 ‘ may want to be reminded, can never need informa-  
 ‘ tion on this head. A hint, therefore, to awaken  
 ‘ your sense of this matter, shall suffice; for I would  
 ‘ inspire you with repentance, and not drive you to  
 ‘ desperation.

‘ There are other consequences, not indeed so  
 ‘ dreadful, or replete with horror, as this; and  
 ‘ yet such as, if attentively considered, must, one  
 ‘ would think, deter all, of your sex at least, from  
 ‘ the commission of the crime.

‘ For by it you are rendered infamous, and dri-  
 ‘ ven, like lepers of old, out of society; at least  
 ‘ from the society of all but wicked and reprobate  
 ‘ persons; for no others will associate with you.

‘ If you have fortunes, you are hereby rendered  
 ‘ incapable of enjoying them; if you have none, you  
 ‘ are disabled from acquiring any, nay almost of pro-  
 ‘ curing your sustenance; for no persons of character  
 ‘ will receive you into their houses. Thus you are  
 ‘ often driven by necessity itself into a state of shame  
 ‘ and misery, which unavoidably ends in the destruc-  
 ‘ tion of both body and soul.

‘ Can any pleasure compensate these evils?—  
 ‘ Can any temptation have sophistry and delu-  
 ‘ sion strong enough to persuade you to so sim-  
 ‘ ple a bargain? Or can any carnal appetite so over-  
 ‘ power your reason, or so totally lay it asleep, as to  
 ‘ pre-



prevent your flying with affright and terror from a  
 crime which carries such punishment always with it?  
 How base and mean must that woman be, how  
 void of that dignity of mind, and decent pride,  
 without which we are not worthy the name of hu-  
 man creatures, who can bear to level herself with  
 the lowest animal, and to sacrifice all that is great  
 and noble in her, all her heavenly part, to an ap-  
 petite which she hath in common with the vilest  
 branch of the creation! For no woman, sure, will  
 plead the passion of love for an excuse. This would  
 be to own herself the mere tool and bubble of the  
 man. Love, however barbarously we may corrupt  
 and pervert its meaning, as it is a laudable, is a ra-  
 tional passion, and can never be violent, but when  
 reciprocal; for though the scripture bids us love  
 our enemies, it means not with that fervent love  
 which we naturally bear towards our friends;  
 much less that we should sacrifice to them our lives,  
 and what ought to be dearer to us, our innocence.  
 Now in what light but in that of an enemy, can a  
 reasonable woman regard the man, who solicits  
 her to entail on herself all the misery I have above  
 described, and who would purchase to himself a  
 short, trivial, contemptible pleasure, so greatly at  
 her expence! For, by the laws of custom the whole  
 shame, with all its dreadful consequences, falls en-  
 tirely upon her. Can Love, which always seeks the  
 good of its object, attempt to betray a woman into  
 a bargain where she is so greatly to be the loser?  
 If such corrupter, therefore, should have the im-  
 pudence to pretend a real affection for her, ought  
 not the woman to regard him, not only as an  
 enemy, but as the worst of all enemies; a false, de-  
 signing, treacherous, pretended friend, who in-  
 tends not only to debauch her body, but her un-  
 derstanding at the same time?"

Here Jenny expressing great concern, Allworthy  
 paused a moment, and then proceeded: "I have

‘ talked thus to you, child, not to insult you for what  
‘ is past, and irrevocable, but to caution and streng-  
‘ then you for the future. Nor should I have taken  
‘ this trouble, but from some opinion of your good  
‘ sense, notwithstanding the dreadful slip you have  
‘ made; and from some hopes of your hearty repen-  
‘ tance, which are founded on the openness and sin-  
‘ cerity of your confession. If these do not deceive  
‘ me, I will take care to convey you from this scene  
‘ of your shame, where you shall, by being unknown,  
‘ avoid the punishment which, as I have said, is al-  
‘ lotted to your crime in this world; and I hope, by  
‘ repentance, you will avoid the much heavier sen-  
‘ tence denounced against it in the other. Be a good  
‘ girl the rest of your days, and want shall be no mo-  
‘ tive to your going astray: and believe me, there is  
‘ more pleasure even in this world, in an innocent and  
‘ virtuous life, than in one debauched and vicious.

‘ As to your child, let no thoughts concerning it  
‘ molest you; I will provide for it in a better man-  
‘ ner than you can ever hope. And now nothing re-  
‘ mains, but that you inform me who was the wicked  
‘ man that seduced you; for my anger against him  
‘ will be much greater than you have experienced on  
‘ this occasion.’

Jenny now first lifted up her eyes from the ground,  
and with a modest look, and decent voice, thus be-  
gan:

‘ To know you, Sir, and not to love your good-  
‘ ness, would be an argument of total want of sense  
‘ or goodness in any one. In me it would amount to  
‘ the highest ingratitude, not to feel, in the most sen-  
‘ sible manner, the great degree of goodness you have  
‘ been pleased to exert on this occasion. As to my  
‘ concern for what is past, I know you will spare  
‘ my blushes the repetition. My future conduct will  
‘ much better declare my sentiments, than any pro-  
‘ fessions I can now make. I beg leave to assure you,  
‘ Sir, that I take your advice much kinder, than your  
‘ gene-

generous offer with which you concluded it. For, as you are pleased to say, Sir, it is an instance of your opinion of my understanding'—Here her tears flowing apace, she stopped a few moments, and then proceeded thus, 'Indeed, Sir, your kindness overcomes me; but I will endeavour to deserve this good opinion: for, if I have the understanding you are so kindly pleased to allow me, such advice cannot be thrown away upon me. I thank you, Sir, heartily, for your intended kindness to my poor helpless child: he is innocent, and, I hope, will live to be grateful for all the favours you shall shew him. But now, Sir, I must on my knees intreat you, not to persist in asking me to declare the father of my infant. I promise you faithfully, you shall one day know; but I am under the most solemn ties and engagements of honour, as well as the most religious vows and protestations, to conceal his name at this time. And I know you too well to think you would desire I should sacrifice either my honour, or my religion.'

Mr. Allworthy, whom the least mention of these sacred words was sufficient to stagger, hesitated a moment before he replied, and then told her she had done wrong to enter into such engagements to a villain; but since she had, he could not insist on her breaking them. He said, it was not from a motive of vain curiosity he had enquired, but in order to punish the fellow; at least, that he might not ignorantly confer favours on the undeserving.

As to those points, Jenny satisfied him by the most solemn assurances, that the man was entirely out of his reach, and was neither subject to his power, nor in any probability of becoming an object of his goodness.

The ingenuity of this behaviour had gained Jenny so much credit with this worthy man, that he easily believed what she told him: for as she had disdained to excuse herself by a lie, and had hazarded his farther

ther displeasure in her present situation, rather than forfeit her honour, or integrity, by betraying another, he had but little apprehension that she would be guilty of falshood towards himself.

He therefore dismissed her with assurances, that he would very soon remove her out of the reach of that obloquy she had incurred, concluding with some additional documents, in which he recommended repentance, saying, 'Consider, child, there is one still to reconcile yourself to, whose favour is of much greater importance to you than mine.'

### CH A P. VIII.

*A dialogue between Mesdames Bridget and Deborah; containing more amusement, but less instruction than the former.*

WHEN Mr. Allworthy had retired to his study with Jenny Jones, as hath been seen, Mrs. Bridget, with the good housekeeper, had betaken themselves to a post next adjoining to the said study, whence, through the conveyance of a key-hole, they sucked in at their ears the instructive lecture delivered by Mr. Allworthy, together with the answers of Jenny, and indeed every other particular which passed in the last chapter.

This hole in her brother's study-door was indeed as well known to Mrs. Bridget, and had been as frequently applied to by her, as the famous hole in the wall was by Thisbe of old. This served to many good purposes. For by such means Mrs. Bridget became often acquainted with her brother's inclinations, without giving him the trouble of repeating them to her. It is true, some inconveniences attended this intercourse, and she had sometimes reason to cry out with Thisbe, in Shakespear, 'O wicked, wicked wall!' For as Mr. Allworthy was a justice

justice of the peace, certain things occurred in examinations concerning bastards, and such like, which are apt to give great offence to the chaste ears of virgins, especially when they approach the age of forty, as was the case of Mrs. Bridget. However, she had, on such occasions, the advantage of concealing her blushes from the eyes of men; and *de non apparentibus & non existentibus eadem est ratio*. In English; 'When a woman is not seen to blush, she doth not blush at all.'

Both the good women kept strict silence during the whole scene between Mr. Allworthy and the girl; but as soon as it was ended, and that gentleman was out of hearing, Mrs. Deborah could not help exclaiming against the clemency of her master, and especially against his suffering her to conceal the father of the child, which she swore she would have out of her before the sun set.

At these words Mrs. Bridget discomposed her features with a smile; (a thing very unusual to her.) Not that I would have my reader imagine, that this was one of those wanton smiles, which Homer would have you conceive came from Venus, when he calls her the laughter-loving goddess; nor was it one of those smiles, which Lady Seraphina shoots from the stage-box, and which Venus would quit her immortality to be able to equal. No, this was rather one of those smiles, which might be supposed to have come from the dimpled cheeks of the august Typhon, or from one of the misses her sisters.

With such a smile then, and with a voice, sweet as the evening-breeze of Boreas in the pleasant month of November, Mrs. Bridget gently reproved the curiosity of Mrs. Deborah; a vice with which it seems the latter was too much tainted, and which the former inveighed against with great bitterness, adding, 'that among all her faults, she thanked Heaven, her enemies could not accuse her of prying into the affairs of other people.'

She then proceeded to commend the honour and spi-

rit with which Jenny had acted. She said, she could not help agreeing with her brother, that there was some merit in the sincerity of her confession, and in her integrity to her lover: that she had always thought her a very good girl, and doubted not but she had been seduced by some rascal, who had been infinitely more to blame than herself, and very probably had prevailed with her by a promise of marriage, or some other treacherous proceeding.

This behaviour of Mrs. Bridget greatly surprized Mrs. Deborah; for this well-bred woman seldom opened her lips either to her master or his sister, 'till she had first sounded their inclinations, with which her sentiments were always strictly consonant. Here, however, she thought she might have launched forth with safety; and the sagacious reader will not perhaps accuse her of sufficient foresight in so doing, but will rather admire with what wonderful celerity she tackled about, when she found herself steering a wrong course.

'Nay, Madam,' said this able woman, and truly great politician, 'I must own I cannot help admiring the girl's spirit, as well as your ladyship. And as your ladyship says, if she was deceived by some wicked man, the poor wretch is to be pitied. And to be sure, as your ladyship says, the girl hath always appeared like a good, honest, plain girl, and not vain of her face, forsooth, as some wanton hussies in the neighbourhood are.'

'You say true, Deborah,' said Mrs. Bridget, 'if the girl had been one of those vain trollops, of which we have too many in the parish, I should have condemned my brother for his lenity towards her. I saw two farmers' daughters at church, the other day, with bare necks. I protest they shocked me. If wenches will hang out lures for fellows, it is no matter what they suffer. I detest such creatures; and it would be much better for them, that their

‘ their faces had been seamed with the small-pox :  
 ‘ but I must confess, I never saw any of this wanton  
 ‘ behaviour in poor Jenny ; some artful villain, I  
 ‘ am convinced, hath betrayed, nay perhaps forced  
 ‘ her : and I pity the poor wretch with all my  
 ‘ heart.’

Mrs. Deborah approved all these sentiments, and the dialogue concluded with a general and bitter invective against beauty, and with many compassionate considerations for all honest, plain girls, who are deluded by the wicked arts of deceitful men.

## C H A P. IX.

*Containing matters which will surprize the reader.*

JENNY returned home well-pleased with the reception she had met with from Mr. Allworthy, whose indulgence to her she industriously made public : partly perhaps as a sacrifice to her own pride ; and partly from the more prudent motive of reconciling her neighbours to her, and silencing their clamours.

But though this latter view, if she indeed had it, may appear reasonable enough, yet the event did not answer her expectation ; for when she was convened before the justice, and it was universally apprehended that the house of correction would have been her fate ; though some of the young women cried out, ‘ it was ‘ good enough for her,’ and diverted themselves with the thoughts of her beating hemp in a silk gown, yet there were many others who began to pity her condition : but when it was known in what manner Mr. Allworthy had behaved, the tide turned against her. One said, ‘ I’ll assure you, Madam hath had ‘ good luck.’ A second cried, ‘ See what it is to be ‘ a favourite.’ A third, ‘ Ay, this comes of her ‘ learning.’



‘learning.’ Every person made some malicious comment or other on the occasion; and reflected on the partiality of the justice.

The behaviour of these people may appear impolitic and ungrateful to the reader, who considers the power and the benevolence of Mr. Allworthy: but as to his power, he never used it; and as to his benevolence, he exerted so much, that he had thereby disoblinded all his neighbours: for it is a secret well known to great men, that by conferring an obligation, they do not always procure a friend, but are certain of creating many enemies.

Jenny was, however, by the care and goodness of Mr. Allworthy, soon removed out of the reach of reproach; when malice, being no longer able to vent its rage on her, began to seek another object of its bitterness; and this was no less than Mr. Allworthy himself: for a whisper soon went abroad, that he himself was the father of the foundling child.

This supposition so well reconciled his conduct to the general opinion, that it met with universal assent, and the outcry against his lenity soon began to take another turn, and was changed into an invective against his cruelty to the poor girl. Very grave and good women exclaimed against men who begot children, and then disowned them. Nor were there wanting some, who after the departure of Jenny, insinuated, that she was spirited away with a design too black to be mentioned; and who gave frequent hints, that a legal enquiry ought to be made into the whole matter, and that some people should be forced to produce the girl.

These calumnies might have probably produced ill consequences (at the least might have occasioned some trouble) to a person of a more doubtful and suspicious character than Mr. Allworthy was blessed with; but in his case they had no such effect; and, being heartily despised by him, they served only to afford an innocent



innocent amusement to the good gossips of the neighbourhood.

But as we cannot possibly divine what complexion our reader may be of, and as it will be some time before he will hear any more of Jenny, we think proper to give him a very early intimation, that Mr. Allworthy was, and will hereafter appear to be, absolutely innocent of any criminal intention whatever. He had indeed committed no other than an error of politics, by tempering justice with mercy, and by refusing to gratify the good natured disposition of the mob\*, with an object for their compassion to work on in the person of poor Jenny, whom, in order to pity, they desired to have seen sacrificed to ruin and infamy by a shameful correction in Bridewell.

So far from complying with this their inclination, by which all hopes of reformation would have been abolished, and even the gate shut against her, if her own inclinations should ever hereafter lead her to chuse the road of virtue; Mr. Allworthy rather chose to encourage the girl to return thither by the only possible means; for too true, I am afraid, it is, that many women have become abandoned, and have sunk to the last degree of vice, by being unable to retrieve the first slip. This will be, I am afraid, always the case while they remain among their former acquaintance; it was therefore wisely done by Mr. Allworthy, to remove Jenny to a place where she might enjoy the pleasure of reputation, after having tasted the ill consequences of losing it.

To this place therefore, wherever it was, we will wish her a good journey, and for the present take leave of her, and of the little foundling her child,  
having

\* Whenever this word occurs in our writings, it intends persons without virtue, or sense, in all stations; and many of the highest rank are often meant by it.

having matters of much higher importance to communicate to the reader.

## CHAP. X.

*The hospitality of Allworthy; with a short sketch of the characters of two brothers, a doctor, and a captain, who were entertained by that gentleman.*

**N**EITHER Mr. Allworthy's house, nor his heart, were shut against any part of mankind; but they were both more particularly open to men of merit. To say the truth, this was the only house in the kingdom where you was sure to gain a dinner by deserving it.

Above all others, men of genius and learning shared the principal place in his favour; and in these he had much discernment: for though he had missed the advantage of a learned education, yet being blest with vast natural abilities, he had so well profited by a vigorous, though late application to letters, and by much conversation with men of eminence in this way, that he was himself a very competent judge in most kinds of literature.

It is no wonder that in an age when this kind of merit is so little in fashion, and so slenderly provided for, persons possessed of it should very eagerly flock to a place where they were sure of being received with great complaisance; indeed, where they might enjoy almost the same advantages of a liberal fortune, as if they were entitled to it in their own right; for Mr. Allworthy was not one of those generous persons, who are ready most bountifully to bestow meat, drink, and lodging on men of wit and learning, for which they expect no other return but entertainment, instruction, flattery, and subserviency; in a word, that

that such persons should be enrolled in the number of domestics, without wearing their master's clothes, or receiving wages.

On the contrary, every person in this house was perfect master of his own time: and as he might at his pleasure satisfy all his appetites within the restrictions only of law, virtue, and religion; so he might, if his health required, or his inclination prompted him to temperance, or even to abstinence, absent himself from any meals, or retire from them whenever he was so disposed, without even a solicitation to the contrary: for indeed such solicitations from superiors always savour very strongly of commands. But all here were free from such impertinence, not only those, whose company is in all other places esteemed a savour from their equality of fortune, but even those whose indigent circumstances make such an eleemosynary abode convenient to them, and who are therefore less welcome to a great man's table, because they stand in need of it.

Among others of this kind was Dr. Blifil, a gentleman who had the misfortune of losing the advantage of great talents by the obstinacy of a father, who would breed him to a profession he disliked. In obedience to this obstinacy, the doctor had in his youth been obliged to study physic, or rather to say he studied it; for in reality books of this kind were almost the only ones with which he was unacquainted; and unfortunately for him, the doctor was master of almost every other science but that by which he was to get his bread; the consequence of which was, that the doctor at the age of forty had no bread to eat.

Such a person as this was certain to find a welcome at Mr. Allworthy's table, to whom misfortunes were ever a recommendation, when they were derived from the folly or villany of others, and not of the unfortunate person himself. Besides this negative merit, the doctor had one positive recommendation.

dation. This was a great appearance of religion. Whether his religion was real, or consisted only in appearance, I shall not presume to say, as I am not possessed of any touch-stone which can distinguish the true from the false.

If this part of his character pleased Mr. Allworthy, it delighted Miss Bridget. She engaged him in many religious controversies; on which occasions she constantly expressed great satisfaction in the doctor's knowledge, and not much less in the compliments which he frequently bestowed on her own. To say the truth, she had read much English divinity, and had puzzled more than one of the neighbouring curates. Indeed her conversation was so pure, her looks so sage, and her whole deportment so grave and solemn, that she seemed to deserve the name of Saint equally with her name-sake, or with any other female in the Roman calendar.

As sympathies of all kinds are apt to beget love, so experience teaches us that none have a more direct tendency this way than those of a religious kind between persons of different sexes. The doctor found himself so agreeable to Miss Bridget, that he now began to lament an unfortunate accident which had happened to him about ten years before; namely, his marriage with another woman, who was not only still alive, but what was worse, known to be so by Mr. Allworthy. This was a fatal bar to that happiness which he otherwise saw sufficient probability of obtaining with this young lady; for as to criminal indulgences, he certainly never thought of them. This was owing either to his religion, as is most probable, or to the purity of his passion, which was fixed on those things, which matrimony only, and not criminal correspondence, could put him in possession of, or could give him any title to.

He had not long ruminated on these matters, before it occurred to his memory that he had a brother who was under no such unhappy incapacity. This  
brother

brother, he made no doubt would succeed; for he discerned, as he thought, an inclination to marriage in the lady; and the reader, perhaps, when he hears the brother's qualifications, will not blame the confidence which he entertained of his success.

This gentleman was about thirty-five years of age. He was of a middle size, and what is called well built. He had a scar on his forehead, which did not so much injure his beauty, as it denoted his valour (for he was a half-pay officer). He had good teeth, and something affable, when he pleased, in his smile; tho' naturally his countenance, as well as his air and voice, had much of roughness in it; yet he could at any time deposit this, and appear all gentleness and good humour. He was not ungenteel, nor entirely void of wit; and in his youth had abounded in sprightliness, which, though he had lately put on a more serious character, he could, when he pleased, resume.

He had, as well as the doctor, an academic education; for his father had, with the same paternal authority we have mentioned before, decreed him for holy orders; but as the old gentleman died before he was ordained, he chose the church militant, and preferred the king's commission to the bishop's.

He had purchased the post of lieutenant of dragons, and afterwards came to be a captain; but having quarrelled with his colonel, was by his interest obliged to sell; from which time he had entirely rusticated himself, had betaken himself to studying the scriptures, and was not a little suspected of an inclination to methodism.

It seemed therefore not unlikely that such a person should succeed with a lady of so saint-like a disposition, and whose inclinations were no otherwise engaged than to the married state in general; but why the doctor, who certainly had no great friendship for his brother, should for his sake think of making so ill a return to the hospitality of Allworthy, is a matter not so easy to be accounted for.

Is it that some natures delight in evil, as others are thought to delight in virtue? Or is there a pleasure in being accessory to a theft when we cannot commit it ourselves? Or lastly, (which experience seems to make probable) have we a satisfaction in aggrandizing our families, even tho' we have not the least love or respect for them?

Whether any of these motives operated on the doctor, we will not determine; but so the fact was. He sent for his brother, and easily found means to introduce him at Allworthy's as a person who intended only a short visit to himself.

The captain had not been in the house a week, before the doctor had reason to felicitate himself on his discernment. The captain was indeed as great a master of the art of love as Ovid was formerly. He had besides received proper hints from his brother, which he failed not to improve to the best advantage.

## CH A P. XI.

*Containing many rules, and some examples, concerning falling in love: descriptions of beauty, and other more prudential inducements to matrimony.*

**I**T hath been observed by wise men or women, I forget which, that all persons are doomed to be in love once in their lives. No particular season is, as I remember, assigned for this; but the age at which Miss Bridget was arrived, seems to me as proper a period as any to be fixed on for this purpose: It often indeed happens much earlier; but when it doth not, I have observed, it seldom or never fails about this time. Moreover, we may remark, that at this season love is of a more serious and steady nature than what sometimes shews itself in the younger parts of life. The love of girls is uncertain, capricious, and so foolish that we cannot always discover what

what the young lady would be at; nay, it may almost be doubted, whether she always knows this herself.

Now we are never at a loss to discern this in women about forty; for as such grave, serious and experienced ladies well know their own meaning, so it is always very easy for a man of the least sagacity to discover this with the utmost certainty.

Miss Bridget is an example of all these observations. She had not been many times in the captain's company before she was seized with this passion. Nor did she go pining and moping about the house, like a puny foolish girl, ignorant of her distemper: she felt, she knew, and she enjoyed the pleasing sensation, of which, as she was certain it was not only innocent but laudable, she was neither afraid nor ashamed.

And to say the truth, there is in all points great difference between the reasonable passion which women at this age conceive towards men, and the idle and childish liking of a girl to a boy, which is often fixed on the outside only, and on things of little value and no duration; as on cherry-cheeks, small lily-white hands, sloe-black eyes, flowing locks, downy chins, dapper shapes; nay sometimes on charms more worthless than these, and less the party's own; such are the outward ornaments of the person, and for which men are beholden to the taylor, the lace-man, the perriwig-maker, the hatter, and the milliner, and not to nature. Such a passion girls may well be ashamed, as they generally are, to own either to themselves or to others.

The love of Miss Bridget was of another kind. The captain owed nothing to any of these fop-makers in his dress, nor was his person much more beholden to nature. Both his dress and person were such as, had they appeared in an assembly, or a drawing-room, would have been the contempt and ridicule of all the fine ladies there. The former of these was indeed

deed neat, but plain, coarse, ill-fancied, and out of fashion. As for the latter, we have expressly described it above. So far was the skin on his cheeks from being cherry-coloured, that you could not discern what the natural colour of his cheeks was, they being totally overgrown by a black beard, which ascended to his eyes. His shape and limbs were indeed exactly proportioned; but so large, that they denoted the strength rather of a ploughman than any other. His shoulders were broad, beyond all size, and the calves of his legs larger than those of a common chairman. In short, his whole person wanted all that elegance and beauty, which is the very reverse of clumsy strength, and which so agreeably sets off most of our fine gentlemen; being partly owing to the high blood of their ancestors, viz. blood made of rich sauces and generous wines, and partly from an earthly town-education.

Tho' Miss Bridget was a woman of the greatest delicacy of taste; yet such were the charms of the captain's conversation, that she totally overlooked the defects of his person. She imagined, and perhaps very wisely, that she should enjoy more agreeable minutes with the captain, than with a much prettier fellow; and forewent the consideration of pleasing her eyes, in order to procure herself much more solid satisfaction.

The captain no sooner perceived the passion of Miss Bridget, in which discovery he was very quick-sighted, than he faithfully returned it. The lady, no more than her lover, was remarkable for beauty. I would attempt to draw her picture; but that is done already by a more able master, Mr. Hogarth himself, to whom she sat many years ago, and hath been lately exhibited by that gentleman in his print of a Winter's Morning, of which she was no improper emblem, and may be seen walking (for walk she doth in the print) to Covent-Garden church, with a starved foot-boy behind carrying her prayer-book.

The



The captain likewise very wisely preferred the more solid enjoyments he expected with this lady, to the fleeting charms of person. He was one of those wise men, who regard beauty in the other sex as a very worthless and superficial qualification; or, to speak more truly, who rather chuse to possess every convenience of life with an ugly woman, than a handsome one without any of those conveniencies. And having a very good appetite, and but little nicety, he fancied he should play his part very well at the matrimonial banquet, without the sauce of beauty.

To deal plainly with the reader; the captain, ever since his arrival, at least from the moment his brother had proposed the match to him, long before he had discovered any flattering symptoms in Miss Bridget, had been greatly enamoured; that is to say, of Mr. Allworthy's house and gardens, and of his lands, tenements, and hereditaments; of all which the captain was so passionately fond, that he would most probably have contracted marriage with them, had he been obliged to have taken the witch of Endor into the bargain.

As Mr. Allworthy therefore had declared to the doctor, that he never intended to take a second wife, as his sister was his nearest relation, and as the doctor had fished out that his intentions were to make any child of hers his heir, which indeed the law, without his interposition, would have done for him; the doctor and his brother thought it an act of benevolence to give being to a human creature, who would be so plentifully provided with the most essential means of happiness. The whole thoughts therefore of both the brothers were, how to engage the affections of this amiable lady.

But fortune, who is a tender parent, and often doth more for her favourite offspring than either they deserve or wish, had been so industrious for the captain, that whilst he was laying schemes to execute his

his purpose, the lady conceived the same desires with himself, and was on her side contriving how to give the captain proper encouragement, without appearing too forward; for she was a strict observer of all rules of decorum. In this however she easily succeeded; for as the captain was always on the look-out, no glance, gesture, or word escaped him.

The satisfaction which the captain received from the kind behaviour of Miss Bridget, was not a little abated by his apprehensions of Mr. Allworthy; for, notwithstanding his disinterested professions, the captain imagined he would, when he came to act, follow the example of the rest of the world, and refuse his consent to a match so disadvantageous, in point of interest, to his sister. From what oracle he received this opinion, I shall leave the reader to determine; but, however he came by it, it strangely perplexed him how to regulate his conduct so, as at once to convey his affection to the lady, and to conceal it from her brother. He at length resolved to take all private opportunities of making his addresses; but in the presence of Mr. Allworthy to be as reserved and as much upon his guard as was possible; and this conduct was highly approved by the brother.

He soon found means to make his addresses, in express terms to his mistress, from whom he received an answer in the proper form, *viz.* the answer which was first made some thousands of years ago, and which hath been handed down by tradition from mother to daughter ever since. If I was to translate this into *Latin*, I should render it by these two words, *Nolo Episcopari*; a phrase likewise of immemorial use on another occasion.

The captain, however he came by his knowledge, perfectly well understood the lady; and very soon after repeated his application with more warmth and earnestness than before, and was again, according to due form, rejected; but as he had increased in the eagerness

eagerness of his desires, so the lady with the same propriety decreased in the violence of her refusal.

Not to tire the reader, by leading him through every scene of this courtship, (which, though in the opinion of a certain great author, it is the pleasanter scene of life to the actor, is perhaps as dull and tiresome as any whatever to the audience) the captain made his advances in form, the citadel was defended in form, and at length, in proper form, surrendered at discretion.

During this whole time, which filled the space of near a month, the captain preserved great distance of behaviour to his lady, in the presence of the brother; and the more he succeeded with her in private, the more reserved was he in public. And as for the lady, she had no sooner secured her lover, than she behaved to him before company with the highest degree of indifference; so that Mr Allworthy must have had the insight of the devil (or perhaps some of his worse qualities) to have entertained the least suspicion of what was going forward,

## C H A P. XII.

*Containing what the reader may perhaps expect to find in it.*

**I**N all bargains, whether to fight, or to marry, or concerning any other such business, little previous ceremony is required, to bring the matter to an issue, when both parties are really in earnest. This was the case at present, and in less than a month, the captain and his lady were man and wife.

The great concern now was to break the matter to Mr. Allworthy; and this was undertaken by the doctor.

One day then as Allworthy was walking in his garden, the doctor came to him, and with great

gravity of aspect, and all the concern which he could possibly affect in his countenance, said 'I am come, Sir, to impart an affair to you of the utmost consequence; but how shall I mention to you, what it almost distracts me to think of?' He then launched forth into the most bitter invectives both against men and women; accusing the former of having no attachment but to their interest, and the latter of being so addicted to vicious inclinations, that they could never be safely trusted with one of the other sex. 'Could I,' said he, 'Sir, have suspected, that a lady of such prudence, such judgment, such learning, should indulge so indiscreet a passion; or could I have imagined, that my brother—Why do I call him so? He is no longer a brother of mine.'—

'Indeed but he is' said Allworthy, 'and a brother of mine too.'—'Bless me, Sir,' said the doctor, 'do you know the shocking affair? Look ye, Mr. Blifil,' answered the good man, 'it hath been my constant maxim in life, to make the best of all matters which happen. My sister, tho' many years younger than me, is at least old enough to be at the age of discretion. Had he imposed on a child, I should have been more averse to have forgiven him; but a woman of upwards of thirty, must certainly be supposed to know what will make her most happy. She hath married a gentleman, tho' perhaps not quite her equal in fortune; and if he hath any perfections in her eye which can make up that deficiency, I see no reason why I should object to her choice of her own happiness, which I, no more than herself, imagine to consist only in immense wealth. I might perhaps, from the many declarations I have made of complying with almost any proposal, have expected to have been consulted on this occasion; but these matters are of a very delicate nature, and the scruples of modesty perhaps are not to be overcome: As to your brother, I have really no anger against him at all. He hath

'no obligations to me, nor do I think he was under any necessity of asking my consent, since the woman is, as I have said, *Sui Juris*, and of a proper age to be entirely answerable only to herself for her conduct.'

The doctor repeated his accusations against his brother, accused Mr. Allworthy of too great lenity, and declared that he should never more be brought either to see, or to own him for his relation. He then launched forth into a panegyric on Allworthy's goodness, into the highest encomiums on his friendship, and concluded by saying, he should never forgive his brother for having put the place which he bore in that friendship to a hazard.

Allworthy thus answered: 'Had I conceived any displeasure against your brother, I should never have carried that resentment to the innocent: but I assure you I have no such displeasure. Your brother appears to me to be a man of sense and honour. I do not disapprove the taste of my sister; nor will I doubt but that she is equally the object of his inclinations. I have always thought love the only foundation of happiness in a married state, as it can only produce that high and tender friendship which should always be the cement of this union; and, in my opinion, all those marriages which are contracted from other motives are greatly criminal; they are a profanation of a most holy ceremony, and generally end in disquiet and misery; for surely we may call it a profanation, to convert this most sacred institution into a wicked sacrifice to lust, or avarice: and what better can be said of those matches to which men are induced merely by the consideration of a beautiful person, or a great fortune!'

'To deny that beauty is an agreeable object to the eye, and even worthy some admiration, would be false and foolish. *Beautiful* is an epithet often used in scripture, and always mentioned with ho-

‘nour. It was my own fortune to marry a woman whom the world thought handsome, and I can truly say, I liked her the better on that account. But, to make this the sole consideration of marriage, to lust after it so violently, as to overlook all imperfections for its sake, or to require it so absolutely, as to reject and disdain religion, virtue and sense, which are qualities in their nature, of much higher perfection, because an elegance of person only is wanting; this is surely inconsistent either with a wise man or a good christian. And it is, perhaps, being too charitable to conclude, that such persons mean any thing more by their marriage, than to please their carnal appetites, for the satisfaction of which, we are taught, it was not ordained.

‘In the next place, with respect to fortune, worldly prudence, perhaps, exacts some consideration on this head; nor will I absolutely and altogether condemn it; as the world is constituted, the demands of a married state, and the care of posterity, require some little regard to what we call circumstances. Yet this provision is greatly increased, beyond what is really necessary, by folly and vanity, which create abundantly more wants than nature. Equipage for the wife, and large fortunes for the children, are by custom enrolled in the list of necessities; and, to procure these, every thing truly solid and sweet, and virtuous and religious, are neglected and overlooked.

‘And this in many degrees; the last and greatest of which seems scarce distinguishable from madness. I mean, where persons of immense fortunes contract themselves to those who are and must be disagreeable to them; to fools and knaves, in order to encrease an estate, already larger even than the demands of their pleasures. Surely such persons, if they will not be thought mad, must own, either that they are incapable of tasting the sweets of the  
tenderest

'tenderest friendship, or that they sacrifice the greatest happiness of which they are capable, to the vain, uncertain, and senseless laws of vulgar opinion, which owe as well their force, as their foundation, to folly.'

Here Allworthy concluded his sermon, to which Blifil had listened with the profoundest attention, though it cost him some pains to prevent now and then a small discomposure of his muscles. He now praised every period of what he had heard, with the warmth of a young divine, who hath the honour to dine with a bishop the same day in which his lordship hath mounted the pulpit.

## C H A P. XIII.

*Which concludes the first book; with an instance of ingratitude, which, we hope, will appear unnatural.*

**T**HE reader, from what hath been said, may imagine, that the reconciliation (if indeed it could be so called) was only matter of form; we shall therefore pass it over, and hasten to what must surely be thought matter of substance.

The doctor had acquainted his brother with what had passed between Mr. Allworthy and him; and added, with a smile, 'I promise you, I paid you off; nay, I absolutely desired the good gentleman not to forgive you: for you know, after he had made a declaration in your favour, I might, with safety, venture on such a request with a person of his temper; and I was willing, as well for your sake as for my own, to prevent the least possibility of a suspicion.'

Captain Blifil took not the least notice of this, at that time; but he afterwards made a very notable use of it.

One of the maxims which the devil, in a late visit upon earth, left to his disciples, is, when once you are got up, to kick the stool from under you. In plain English, when you have made your fortune by the good offices of a friend, you are advised to discard him as soon as you can.

Whether the captain acted by this maxim, I will not positively determine; so far we may confidently say, that his actions may be fairly derived from this diabolical principle; and indeed it is difficult to assign any other motive to them: for no sooner was he possessed of Miss Bridget, and reconciled to Allworthy, than he began to shew a coldness to his brother, which encreased daily; till at length it grew into rudeness, and became very visible to every one.

The doctor remonstrated to him privately concerning this behaviour, but could obtain no other satisfaction than the following plain declaration: 'If you dislike any thing in my brother's house, Sir, you know you are at liberty to quit it.' This strange, cruel, and almost unaccountable ingratitude in the captain, absolutely broke the poor doctor's heart: for ingratitude never so thoroughly pierces the human breast, as when it proceeds from those in whose behalf we have been guilty of transgressions. Reflections on great and good actions, however they are received or returned by those in whose favour they are performed, always administer some comfort to us; but what consolation shall we receive under so biting a calamity, as the ungrateful behaviour of our friend, when our wounded conscience at the same times flies in our face, and upbraids us with having spotted it in the service of one so worthless?

Mr. Allworthy himself spoke to the captain in his brother's behalf, and desired to know what offence the doctor had committed; when the hard-hearted villain had the baseness to say, that he should never forgive him for the injury which he had endeavoured to do him in his favour; which he said, he  
had



had pumped out of him, and was such a cruelty, that it ought not to be forgiven.

Allworthy spoke in very high terms upon this declaration, which, he said, became not a human creature. He expressed, indeed, so much resentment against an unforgiving temper, that the captain at last pretended to be convinced by his arguments, and outwardly professed to be reconciled.

As for the bride, she was now in her honey-moon, and so passionately fond of her new husband, that he never appeared, to her, to be in the wrong; and his displeasure against any person was a sufficient reason for her dislike to the same.

The captain, at Mr. Allworthy's instance, was outwardly as we have said, reconciled to his brother, yet the same rancour remained in his heart; and he found so many opportunities of giving him private hints of this, that the house at last grew insupportable to the poor doctor; and he chose rather to submit to any inconveniences which he might encounter in the world, than longer to bear these cruel and ungrateful insults, from a brother for whom he had done so much.

He once intended to acquaint Allworthy with the whole; but he could not bring himself to submit to the confession, by which he must take to his share so great a portion of guilt. Besides, by how much the worse man he represented his brother to be, so much the greater would his own offence appear to Allworthy, and so much the greater, he had reason to imagine, would be his resentment.

He leigned, therefore, some excuse of business for his departure, and promised to return soon again; and took leave of his brother with so well dissembled content, that, as the captain played his part to the same perfection, Allworthy remained well satisfied with the truth of the reconciliation.

The Doctor went directly to London, where he died soon after of a broken heart; a distemper which

kills many more than is generally imagined, and would have a fair title to a place in the bill of mortality, did it not differ in one instance from all other diseases, *viz.* That no physician can cure it.

Now, upon the most diligent enquiry into the former lives of those two brothers, I find, besides the cursed and hellish maxim of policy above-mentioned, another reason for the captain's conduct: the captain, besides what we have before said of him, was a man of great pride and fierceness, and had always treated his brother, who was of a different complexion, and greatly deficient in both these qualities, with the utmost air of superiority. The doctor, however, had much the larger share of learning, and was by many reputed to have the better understanding. This the captain knew, and could not bear: for, though envy is, at best, a very malignant passion, yet is its bitterness greatly heightened, by mixing with contempt towards the same object; and very much afraid I am, that whenever an obligation is joined to these two, indignation, and not gratitude, will be the product of all three.

# A FOUNDLING.

## BOOK II.

*Containing scenes of matrimonial felicity in different degrees of life; and various other transactions during the first two years after the marriage between Captain Blifil, and Miss Bridget Allworthy.*

### CHAP. I.

*Shewing what kind of a history this is; what it is like, and what it is not like.*

**T**HOUGH we have properly enough entitled this our work, a History, and not a Life; nor an apology for a life, as is more in fashion; yet we intend in it rather to pursue the method of those writers, who profess to disclose the revolutions of countries, than to imitate the painful and voluminous historian, who, to preserve the regularity of his series, thinks himself obliged to fill up as much paper with the detail of months and years in which nothing remarkable happened, as he employs upon these notable æras when the greatest scenes have been transacted on the human stage.

Such histories as these do, in reality, very much resemble a news-paper, which consists of just the same number of words, whether there be any news in it or not. They may likewise be compared to a stage-coach, which performs constantly the same course, empty as well as full. The writer, indeed, seems to think himself obliged to keep even pace with time, whose amanuensis he is: and, like his master, travels as slowly through the centuries of monkish dullness.

dullness, when the world seems to have been asleep, as through that bright and busy age so nobly distinguished by the excellent latin poet :

- Ad conflagrandum venientibus undique pænis ;
- Omnia cum belli trepido concussa tumultu
- Horrida contremuere sub altis ætheris auris :
- In dubioque fuit sub utrorum regna cadendum
- Omnibus humanis esset, terraque marique.'

Of which we wish we could give our reader a more adequate translation than that by Mr. Creech,

- When dreadful Carthage frighted Rome with  
  ' arms,
- And all the world was shook with fierce  
  ' alarms;
- Whilst undecided yet, which part should fall,
- Which nation rise the glorious lord of all.'

Now it is our purpose, in the ensuing pages, to pursue a contrary method. When any extraordinary scene presents itself, (as we trust will often be the case) we shall spare no pains nor paper to open it at large to our reader; but if whole years should pass without producing any thing worthy his notice, we shall not be afraid of a chasm in our history, but shall hasten on to matters of consequence, and leave such periods of time totally unobserved.

These are indeed to be considered as blanks in the grand lottery of time. We therefore who are the registers of that lottery, shall imitate those sagacious persons who deal in that which is drawn at Guildhall, and who never trouble the public with the many blanks they dispose of; but when a great prize happens to be drawn, the news-papers are presently filled with it, and the world is sure to be informed at whose office it was sold: indeed, commonly two or three different offices lay claim to the honour of having disposed

disposed of it; by which, I suppose, the adventurers are given to understand that certain brokers are in the secrets of fortune, and indeed of her cabinet-council.

My reader then is not to be surprised, if, in the course of this work, he shall find some chapters very short, and others altogether as long; some that contain only the time of a single day, and others that comprise years; in a word, if my history sometimes seems to stand still, and sometimes to fly. For all which I shall not look on myself as accountable to any court of critical jurisdiction whatever: for as I am, in reality, the founder of a new province of writing, so I am at liberty to make what laws I please therein. And these laws, my readers, whom I consider as my subjects, are bound to believe in and to obey; with which that they may readily and cheerfully comply, I do hereby assure them, that I shall principally regard their ease and advantage in all such institutions: for I do not, like a *jure divino* tyrant, imagine that they are my slaves, or my commodity. I am, indeed, set over them for their own good only, and was created for their use, and not they for mine. Nor do I doubt, while I make their interest the great rule of my writings, they will unanimously concur in supporting my dignity, and in rendering me all the honour I shall deserve or desire.

## C H A P. II.

*Religious cautions against shewing too much favour to bastards; and a great discovery made by Mrs Deborah Wilkins.*

**E**IGHT months after the celebration of the nuptials between Captain Blifil and Miss Bridget Allworthy, a young lady of great beauty, merit, and fortune, was Miss Bridget, by reason of a fright, delivered of a fine boy. The child was, indeed, to all

appearance, perfect; but the midwife discovered, it was born a month before its full time.

Though the birth of an heir of his beloved sister was a circumstance of great joy to Mr. Allworthy, yet it did not alienate his affections from the little foundling, to whom he had been godfather, had given his own name of Thomas, and whom he had hitherto seldom failed of visiting, at least once a day, in his nursery.

He told his sister, if she pleased, the new-born infant should be bred up together with little Tommy, to which she consented, though with some little reluctance; for she had truly a great complacence for her brother: and hence she had always behaved towards the foundling with rather more kindness than ladies of rigid virtue can sometimes bring themselves to shew to these children, who, however innocent, may be truly called the living monuments of incontinence.

The captain could not so easily bring himself to bear what he condemned as a fault in Mr. Allworthy. He gave him frequent hints, that to adopt the fruits of sin, was to give countenance to it. He quoted several texts, (for he was well read in scripture) such as, He visits the sins of the fathers upon the children; and, the fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge, &c. Whence he argued the legality of punishing the crime of the parent on the bastard. He said, 'Though the law did not positively allow the destroying such base-born children, yet it held them to be the children of nobody: that the church considered them as the children of nobody; and that, at the best, they ought to be brought up to the lowest and vilest offices of the commonwealth.'

Mr. Allworthy answered to all this, and much more, which the captain had urged on this subject, 'That, however guilty the parents might be, the children were certainly innocent: that as to the  
' texts

' texts he had quoted, the former of them was a particular denunciation against the Jews, for the sin of idolatry, of relinquishing and hating their heavenly King; and the latter was parabolically spoken, and rather intended to denote the certain and necessary consequences of sin, than any judgment against it. But to represent the Almighty as avenging the sins of the guilty on the innocent, was indecent, if not blasphemous, as it was to represent him acting against the first principles of natural justice, and against the original notions of right and wrong, which he himself had implanted in our minds: by which we were to judge, not only in all matters which were not revealed, but even of the truth of revelation itself. He said, he knew many held the same principles with the Captain on this head; but he was himself firmly convinced to the contrary, and would provide in the same manner for this poor infant, as if a legitimate child had had the fortune to have been found in the same place.'

While the captain was taking all opportunities to press these and such like arguments, to remove the little foundling from Mr. Allworthy's, of whose fondness for him he began to be jealous, Mrs. Deborah had made a discovery, which, in its event, threatened at least to prove more fatal to poor Tommy, than all the reasonings of the captain.

Whether the insatiable curiosity of this good woman had carried her on to that business, or whether she did it to confirm herself in the good graces of Mrs. Blifil, who, notwithstanding her outward behaviour to the foundling, frequently abused the infant in private, and her brother too for his fondness to it, I will not determine; but she had now, as she conceived, fully detected the father of the foundling.

Now, as this was a discovery of great consequence, it may be necessary to trace it from the fountain-head. We shall therefore very minutely lay open those previous

vious matters by which it was produced: and for that purpose, we shall be obliged to reveal all the secrets of a little family, with which my reader is at present entirely unacquainted, and of which the œconomy was so rare and extraordinary, that I fear it will shock the utmost credulity of many married persons.

### CHAP. III.

*The description of a domestic government, founded upon rules directly contrary to those of Aristotle.*

MY reader may please to remember he hath been informed, that Jenny Jones had lived some years with a certain schoolmaster, who had, at her earnest desire, instructed her in Latin, in which, to do justice to her genius, she had so improved herself, that she was become a better scholar than her master.

Indeed, though this poor man had undertaken a profession to which learning must be allowed necessary, this was the least of his commendations. He was one of the best-natured fellows in the world, and was, at the same time, master of so much pleasantry and humour, that he was reputed the wit of the country; and all the neighbouring gentlemen were so desirous of his company, that, as denying was not his talent, he spent much time at their houses, which he might, with more emolument, have spent in his school.

It may be imagined, that a gentleman so qualified and so disposed, was in no danger of becoming formidable to the learned seminaries of Eaton or Westminster. To speak plainly, his scholars were divided into two classes. In the upper of which was a young gentleman, the son of a neighbouring 'squire, who, at the age of seventeen, was just entered into his syntaxis; and in the lower was a second son of the

the



the same gentleman, who, together with seven parish boys, was learning to read and write.

The stipend arising hence would hardly have indulged the schoolmaster in the luxuries of life, had he not added to this office those of clerk and barber, and had not Mr. Allworthy added to the whole an annuity of ten pounds, which the poor man received every Christmas, and with which he was enabled to cheer his heart during that sacred festival.

Among his other treasures, the pedagogue had a wife, whom he had married out of Mr. Allworthy's kitchen, for her fortune, viz. twenty pounds, which she had there amassed.

This woman was not very amiable in her person. Whether she sat to my friend Hogarth, or no, I will not determine; but she exactly resembled the young woman who is pouring out her mistress's tea in the third picture of the Harlot's Progress. She was, besides, a profest follower of that notable sect founded by Xantippe of old; by means of which she became more formidable in the school than her husband; for, to confess the truth, he was never master there, or any where else, in her presence.

Though her countenance did not denote much natural sweetness of temper, yet this was perhaps somewhat soured by a circumstance which generally poisons matrimonial felicity: for children are rightly called the pledges of love; and her husband, though they had been married nine years, had given her no such pledges; a default for which he had no excuse, either from age or health, being not yet thirty years old, and, what they call a jolly, brisk, young man.

Hence arose another evil, which produced no little uneasiness to the poor pedagogue, of whom she maintained so constant a jealousy, that he durst hardly speak to one woman in the parish; for the least degree of civility, or even correspondence with any female, was sure to bring his wife upon her back, and his own.

In order to guard herself against matrimonial injuries in her own house, as she kept one maid-servant, she always took care to chuse her out of that order of females, whose faces are taken for a kind of security for their virtue; of which number Jenny Jones, as the reader hath been before informed, was one.

As the face of this young woman might be called pretty good security of the before mentioned kind, and as her behaviour had been always extremely modest; which is the certain consequence of understanding in women; she had passed above four years at Mr. Partridge's, (for that was the schoolmaster's name) without creating the least suspicion in her mistress. Nay, she had been treated with uncommon kindness, and her mistress had permitted Mr. Partridge to give her those instructions, which have been before commemorated.

But it is with jealousy, as with the gout: when such distempers are in the blood, there is never any security against their breaking out; and that often on the slightest occasions, and when least suspected.

Thus is happened to Mrs. Partridge, who had submitted four years to her husband's teaching this young woman, and had suffered her often to neglect her work, in order to pursue her learning. For passing by one day, as the girl was reading, and her master leaning over her, the girl, I know not for what reason, suddenly started up from her chair; and this was the first time that suspicion ever entered into the head of her mistress.

This did not, however, at that time, discover itself, but lay lurking in her mind, like a concealed enemy, who waits for a reinforcement of additional strength, before he openly declares himself, and proceeds upon hostile operations; and such additional strength soon arrived to corroborate her suspicion. For not long after, the husband and wife being at dinner, the master

ter said to his maid, *Da mihi aliquid potum*; upon which the poor girl smiled, perhaps at the badness of the Latin, and when her mistress cast her eyes on her, blushed, possibly with a consciousness of having laughed at her master. Mrs. Partridge, upon this, immediately fell into a fury, and discharged the trencher, on which she was eating, at the head of poor Jenny, crying out, 'You impudent whore, do you play such tricks with my husband before my face?' and, at the same instant, rose from her chair, with a knife in her hand, with which, most probably, she would have executed very tragical vengeance, had not the girl taken the advantage of being nearer the door than her mistress, and avoided her fury by running away; for, as to the poor husband, whether surprize had rendered him motionless, or fear (which is full as probable) had restrained him from venturing at any opposition, he sat staring and trembling in his chair; nor did he once offer to move or speak, till his wife, returning from the pursuit of Jenny, made some defensive measures necessary for his own preservation; and he likewise was obliged to retreat after the example of the maid.

This good woman was, no more than Othello, of a disposition

——— 'To make a life of jealousy,  
' And follow still the changes of the moon  
' With fresh suspicions' ———

with her, as well as him,

——— 'To be once in doubt,  
' Was once to be resolved' ———

she therefore ordered Jenny immediately to pack up her alls, and be gone; for that she was determined she should not sleep that night within her walls.

Mr. Partridge had profited too much, by experience

rience, to interpose in a matter of this nature. He therefore had recourse to his usual receipt of patience; for, though he was not a great adept in Latin, he remembered, and well understood, the advice contained in these words :

—‘ *Leve fit, quod bene fertur onus.*’

In English, ‘ A burden becomes lightest, when it is  
‘ well borne.’

which he had always in his mouth, and of which, to say the truth, he had often occasion to experience the truth.

Jenny offered to make protestations of her innocence; but the tempest was too high for her to be heard. She then betook herself to the business of packing, for which a small quantity of brown paper sufficed; and, having received her small pittance of wages, she returned home.

The schoolmaster and his consort pass’d their time unpleasantly enough that evening; but something or other happened before the next morning, which a little abated the fury of Mrs. Partridge; and she at length admitted her husband to make his excuses: to which she gave the readier belief, as he had, instead of desiring her to recal Jenny, professed a satisfaction in her being dismissed, saying, she was grown of little use as a servant, spending all her time in reading, and was become, moreover, very peit and obstinate: for, indeed, she and her master had lately had frequent disputes in literature; in which, as hath been said, she was become greatly his superior. This, however, he would by no means allow; and, as he called her persisting in the right, obstinacy, he began to hate her with no small inveteracy.

## C H A P. IV.

*Containing one of the most bloody battles, or rather duels,  
that were ever recorded in domestic history.*

FOR the reasons mentioned in the preceding chapter, and from some other matrimonial concessions, well known to most husbands, and which, like the secrets of free-masonry, should be divulged to none who are not members of that honourable fraternity, Mrs. Partridge was pretty well satisfied, that she had condemned her husband without cause, and endeavoured, by acts of kindness, to make him amends for her false suspicion. Her passions were, indeed, equally violent, which ever way they inclined: for, as she could be extremely angry, so could she be altogether as fond.

But though these passions ordinarily succeed each other, and scarce twenty-four hours ever passed in which the pedagogue was not, in some degree, the object of both; yet, on extraordinary occasions, when the passion of anger had raged very high, the remission was usually longer, and so was the case at present; for she continued longer in a state of affability, after this fit of jealousy was ended, than her husband had ever known before; and, had it not been for some little exercises, which all the followers of Xantippe are obliged to perform daily, Mr. Partridge would have enjoyed a perfect serenity of several months.

Perfect calms at sea are always suspected by the experienced mariner to be the fore-runners of a storm: and I know some persons, who, without being generally the devotees of superstition, are apt to apprehend, that great and unusual peace or tranquility, will be attended with its opposite. For which reason the ancients used on such occasions to sacrifice to the

the goddess Nemesis; a deity who was thought by them to look with an invidious eye on human felicity, and to have a peculiar delight in overturning it.

As we are very far from believing in any such heathen goddess, or from encouraging any superstition, so we wish Mr. John Fr——, or some other such philosopher, would bestir himself a little, in order to find out the real cause of this sudden transition from good to bad fortune, which hath been so often remarked, and of which we shall proceed to give an instance; for it is our province to relate facts, and we shall leave causes to persons of much higher genius.

Mankind have always taken great delight in knowing and descanting on the actions of others. Hence there have been, in all ages, and nations, certain places set apart for public rendezvous, where the curious might meet, and satisfy their mutual curiosity. Among these, the barbers shops have justly borne the pre-eminence. Among the Greeks, barbers news was a proverbial expression; and Horace, in one of his epistles, makes honourable mention of the Roman barbers in the same light.

Those of England are known to be nowise inferior to their Greek or Roman predecessors. You there see foreign affairs discussed in a manner little inferior to that with which they are handled in the coffee-houses; and domestic occurrences are much more largely and freely treated in the former, than in the latter. But this serves only for the men. Now, whereas the females of this country, especially those of the lower order, do associate themselves much more than those of other nations, our polity would be highly deficient, if they had not some place set apart likewise for the indulgence of their curiosity, seeing they are in no way inferior to the other half of the species.

In enjoying, therefore, such place of rendezvous,  
the

the British fair ought to esteem themselves more happy than any of their foreign sisters; as I do not remember either to have read in history, or to have seen in my travels, any thing of the like kind.

This place then is no other than the chandler's shop, the known seat of all the news; or, as it is vulgarly called, gossiping, in every parish in England.

Mrs. Partridge being one day at this assembly of females, was asked by one of her neighbours, if she had heard no news lately of Jenny Jones. To which she answered in the negative. Upon this, the other replied, with a smile, that the parish was very much obliged to her for having turned Jenny away as she did.

Mrs. Partridge, whose jealousy, as the reader well knows, was long since cured, and who had no other quarrel to her maid, answered boldly, she did not know any obligation the parish had to her on that account; for she believed Jenny had scarce left her equal behind her.

'No truly,' said the gossip, 'I hope not, though I fancy we have sluts enow too. Then you have not heard, it seems, that she hath been brought to bed of two bastards; but as they are not born here, my husband, and the other overseer, says, we shall not be obliged to keep them.'

'Two bastards!' answered Mrs. Partridge hastily, 'you surprize me. I don't know whether we must keep them; but I am sure they must have been begotten here; for the wench hath not been nine months gone away.'

Nothing can be so quick and sudden as the operations of the mind, especially when hope, or fear, or jealousy, to which the two others are but journey-men, set it to work. It occurred instantly to her, that Jenny had scarce ever been out of her own house, while she lived with her. The leaning over the chair, the sudden starting up, the Latin, the smile, and many other things, rushed upon her all at once. The satisfaction

satisfaction her husband had expressed in the departure of Jenny, appeared now to be only dissembled; again, in the same instant, to be real, and yet to confirm her jealousy, as proceeding from satiety, and a hundred other bad causes. In a word, she was convinced of her husband's guilt, and immediately left the assembly in confusion.

As fair Grimalkin, who, though the youngest of the feline family, degenerates not in ferocity from the elder branches of her house, and though inferior in strength, is equal in fierceness to the noble tyger himself, when a little mouse, whom it hath long tormented in sport, escapes from her clutches, for a while, frets, scolds, growls, swears; but if the trunk, or box, behind which the mouse lay hid, be again removed, she flies like lightning on her prey, and, with envenomed wrath, bites, scratches, mumbles, and tears the little animal.

Not with less fury did Mrs. Partridge fly on the poor pedagogue. Her tongue, teeth, and hands fell all upon him at once. His wig was in an instant torn from his head, his shirt from his back, and from his face descended five streams of blood, denoting the number of claws with which nature had unhappily armed the enemy.

Mr. Partridge acted for some time on the defensive only: indeed he attempted only to guard his face with his hands; but as he found that his antagonist abated nothing of her rage, he thought he might, at least, endeavour to disarm her, or rather to confine her arms; in doing which, her cap fell off in the struggle, and her hair being too short to reach her shoulders, erected itself on her head; her stays likewise, which were laced through one single hole at the bottom, burst open, and her breasts, which were much more redundant than her hair, hung down below her middle; her face was likewise marked with the blood of her husband; her teeth gnashed with rage; and fire, such as sparkles from  
a smith's



a smith's forge, darted from her eyes: so that, all together, this Amazonian heroine might have been an object of terror to a much bolder man than Mr. Partridge.

He had, at length, the good fortune, by getting possession of her arms, to render those weapons, which she wore at the ends of her fingers, useless; which she no sooner perceived, than the softness of her sex prevailed over her rage, and she presently dissolved in tears, which soon after concluded in a fit.

That small share of sense which Mr. Partridge had hitherto preserved through this scene of fury, of the cause of which he was hitherto ignorant, now utterly abandoned him. He ran instantly into the street, hallooing out, that his wife was in the agonies of death, and beseeching the neighbours to fly with the utmost haste to her assistance. Several good women obeyed his summons, who entering his house, and applying the usual remedies on such occasions, Mrs. Partridge was, at length, to the great joy of her husband, brought to herself.

As soon as she had a little recollected her spirits, and somewhat composed herself with a cordial, she began to inform the company of the manifold injuries she had received from her husband; who, she said, was not contented to injure her in her bed; but, upon her upbraiding him with it, had treated her in the cruellest manner imaginable; had torn her cap and hair from her head, and her stays from her body, giving her, at the same time, several blows, the marks of which she should carry to the grave.

The poor man, who bore on his face many more visible marks of the indignation of his wife, stood in silent astonishment at this accusation; which the reader will, I believe, bear witness for him, had greatly exceeded the truth: for indeed he had not struck her once; and this silence being interpreted to be a confession of the charge, by the whole court, they

they all began at once, *una voce*, to rebuke and revile him, repeating often, that none but a coward ever struck a woman.

Mr. Partridge bore all this patiently; but when his wife appealed to the blood on her face, as an evidence of his barbarity, he could not help laying claim to his own blood, for so it really was; as he thought it very unnatural, that this should rise up (as we are taught that of a murdered person often doth) in vengeance against him.

To this the women made no other answer, than that it was pity it had not come from his heart, instead of his face; all declaring, that if their husbands should lift their hands against them, they would have their hearts bloods out of their bodies.

After much admonition for what was past, and much good advice to Mr. Partridge for his future behaviour, the company, at length, departed, and left the husband and wife to a personal conference together, in which Mr. Partridge soon learned the cause of all his sufferings.

## C H A P. V.

*Containing much matter to exercise the judgment and reflection of the reader.*

**I** Believe it is a true observation, that few secrets are divulged to one person only; but certainly, it would be next to a miracle, that a fact of this kind should be known to a whole parish, and not transpire any farther.

And, indeed, a very few days had past, before the country, to use a common phrase, rung of the school-master of Little Baddington, who was said to have beaten his wife in the most cruel manner. Nay, in some places, it was reported he had murdered her; in others, that he had broke her arms; in others, her

her legs; in short, there was scarce an injury which can be done to a human creature, but what Mrs. Partridge was somewhere or other affirmed to have received from her husband.

The cause of this quarrel was likewise variously reported; for, as some people said that Mrs. Partridge had caught her husband in bed with his maid, so many other reasons, of a very different kind, went abroad. Nay, some transferred the guilt to the wife, and the jealousy to the husband.

Mrs. Wilkins had long ago heard of this quarrel; but, as a different cause from the true one had reached her ears, she thought proper to conceal it; and the rather, perhaps, as the blame was universally laid on Mr. Partridge; and his wife, when she was servant to Mrs. Allworthy, had in something offended Mrs. Wilkins, who was not of a very forgiving temper.

But Mrs. Wilkins, whose eyes could see objects at a distance, and who could very well look forward a few years into futurity, had perceived a strong likelihood of Captain Blifil's being hereafter her master; and, as she plainly discerned, that the captain bore no great good-will to the little foundling, she fancied it would be rendering him an agreeable service, if she could make any discoveries that might lessen the affection which Mr. Allworthy seemed to have contracted for this child, and which gave visible uneasiness to the captain; who could not entirely conceal it even before Allworthy himself; though his wife, who acted her part much better in public, frequently recommended to him her own example, of conniving at the folly of her brother, which, she said, she at least as well perceived, and as much resented as any other possibly could.

Mrs. Wilkins having therefore, by accident, gotten a true scent of the above story, though long after it had happened, failed not to satisfy herself thoroughly of all the particulars; and then acquainted the captain,

that she had at last discovered the true father of the little bastard, which she was sorry, she said, to see her master lose his reputation in the country by taking so much notice of.

The captain chid her for the conclusion of her speech, as an improper assurance in judging of her master's actions : for if his honour, or his understanding, would have suffered the captain to make an alliance with Mrs. Wilkins, his pride would by no means have admitted it. And, to say the truth, there is no conduct less politic, than to enter into any confederacy with your friend's servants, against their master. For, by these means, you afterwards become the slave of these very servants, by whom you are constantly liable to be betrayed. And this consideration, perhaps, it was, which prevented Captain Blifil from being more explicit with Mrs. Wilkins ; or from encouraging the abuse which she had bestowed on Allworthy.

But though he declared no satisfaction to Mrs. Wilkins at this discovery, he enjoyed not a little from it in his own mind, and resolved to make the best use of it he was able.

He kept this matter a long time concealed within his own breast, in hopes that Mr. Allworthy might hear it from some other person ; but Mrs. Wilkins, whether she resented the captain's behaviour, or whether his cunning was beyond her, and she feared the discovery might displease him, never afterwards opened her lips about the matter.

I have thought it somewhat strange, upon reflection, that the house-keeper never acquainted Mrs. Blifil with this news, as women are more inclined to communicate all pieces of intelligence to their own sex, than to ours. The only way, as it appears to me, of solving this difficulty, is, by imputing it to that distance which was now grown between the lady and the house-keeper : whether this arose from a jealousy in Mrs. Blifil, that Wilkins shewed too great a  
respect

respect to the foundling ; for while she was endeavouring to ruin the little infant, in order to ingratiate herself with the captain, she was every day more and more commending it before Allworthy, as his fondness for it every day encreased. This, notwithstanding all the care she took at other times to express the direct contrary to Mrs. Blifil, perhaps offended that delicate lady, who certainly now hated Mrs. Wilkins ; and though she did not, or possibly could not, absolutely remove her, from her place, she found, however, the means of making her life very uneasy. This Mrs. Wilkins, at length, so repented, that she very openly shewed all manner of respect and fondness to little Tommy, in opposition to Mrs. Blifil.

The captain, therefore, finding the story in danger of perishing, he at last took an opportunity to reveal it himself.

He was one day engaged with Mr. Allworthy in a discourse on charity : in which the captain, with great learning, proved to Mr. Allworthy, that the word Charity, in scripture, no where means beneficence, or generosity.

‘ The Christian religion, he said, was instituted for much nobler purposes, than to enforce a lesson which many Heathen philosophers had taught us long before, and which, though it might, perhaps, be called a moral virtue, favoured but little of that sublime christian-like disposition, that vast elevation of thought, in purity approaching to angelic perfection, to be attained, expressed, and felt only by grace. Those (he said) came nearer to the scripture-meaning, who understood by it candour, or the forming of a benevolent opinion of our brethren, and passing a favourable judgment on their actions ; a virtue much higher, and more extensive in its nature, than a pitiful distribution of alms, which, though we would never so much prejudice, or even ruin our families, could never reach many ;

‘whereas charity, in the other and truer sense, might be extended to all mankind.’

He said, ‘Considering who the disciples were, it would be absurd to conceive the doctrine of generosity, or giving alms, to have been preached to them. And, as we could not well imagine this doctrine should be preached by its divine author to men who could not practise it, much less shall we think it understood so by those who can practise it, and do not.’

‘But though, continued he, there is, I am afraid, little merit in these benefactions; there would, I must confess, be much pleasure in them to a good mind, if it was not abated by one consideration. I mean that we are liable to be imposed upon, and to confer our choicest favours often on the undeserving, as you must own was your case in your bounty to that worthless fellow Partridge: for two or three such examples must greatly lessen the inward satisfaction, which a good man would otherwise find in generosity; nay, may even make him timorous in bestowing, lest he should be guilty of supporting vice, and encouraging the wicked; a crime of a very black dye, and for which it will by no means be a sufficient excuse, that we have not actually intended such an encouragement; unless we have used the utmost caution in chusing the objects of our beneficence. A consideration which, I make no doubt, hath greatly checked the liberality of many a worthy and pious man.’

Mr. Allworthy answered, ‘He could not dispute with the captain in Greek language, and therefore could say nothing as to the true sense of the word, which is translated *Charity*; but that he had always thought it was interpreted to consist in action, and that giving alms constituted at least one branch of that virtue.’

‘As to the meritorious part, he said, he readily agreed with the captain, for where could be the merit

merit of barely discharging a duty, which he said, let the word Charity have what construction it would; it sufficiently appeared to be from the whole tenor of the New Testament? And as he thought it an indispensable duty, enjoined both by the Christian law, and by the law of Nature itself: so was it withal so pleasant, that if any duty could be said to be its own reward, or to pay us while we were discharging it, it was this.

To confess the truth, said he, there is one degree of generosity, (of charity I would have called it) which seems to have some shew of merit, and that is, where from a principle of benevolence, and Christian love, we bestow on another what we really want ourselves; where, in order to lessen the distresses of another, we condescend to share some part of them, by giving what even our own necessities cannot well spare. This is, I think, meritorious; but to relieve our brethren only with our superfluities; to be charitable (I must use the word) rather at the expence of our coffers than ourselves; to save several families from misery rather than hang up an extraordinary picture in our houses, or gratify any other idle, ridiculous vanity, this seems to be only being Christians, nay indeed, only being human creatures. Nay, I will venture to go farther, it is being in some degree epicures: for what could the greatest epicure wish rather than to eat with many mouths instead of one? which I think may be predicated of any one who knows that the bread of many is owing to his own largesses.

As to the apprehension of bestowing bounty on such as may hereafter prove unworthy objects, because many have proved such; surely it can never deter a good man from generosity: I do not think a few or many examples of ingratitude can justify a man's hardening his heart against the distresses of his fellow-creatures; nor do I believe it can ever



‘ have such effect on a truly benevolent mind. Nothing less than a persuasion of universal depravity can lock up the charity of a good man ; and this persuasion must lead him, I think, either into atherism, or enthusiasm ; but surely it is unfair to argue such universal depravity from a few vicious individuals ; nor was this, I believe, ever done by man, who upon searching his own mind found one certain exception the general rule.’ He then concluded by asking, ‘ Who that Partridge was, whom he had called a worthless fellow ?’

‘ I mean, said the captain, Partridge the barber, the schoolmaster, what do you call him ? Partridge, the father of the little child which you found in your bed.’

Mr. Allworthy express great surprize at this account, and the captain as great at his ignorance of it : for he said, he had known it above a month, and at length recollected with much difficulty, that he was told it by Mrs. Wilkins.

Upon this, Wilkins was immediately summoned, who having confirmed what the captain had said, was by Mr. Allworthy, by and with the captain’s advice, dispatched to Little Baddington, to inform herself of the truth of the fact : for the captain express great dislike at all hasty proceedings in criminal matters, and said he would by no means have Mr. Allworthy take any resolution either to the prejudice of the child, or its father, before he was satisfied that the latter was guilty : for though he had privately satisfied himself of this from one of Mr. Partridge’s neighbours, yet he was too generous to glve any such evidence to Mr. Allworthy.



## CHAP. VI.

*The trial of Partridge, the schoolmaster, for incontinency; the evidence of his wife; a short reflection on the wisdom of our law; with other grave matters, which those will like best who understand them most.*

**I**T may be wondered, that a story so well known, and which had furnished so much matter of conversation, should never have been mentioned to Mr. Allworthy himself, who was perhaps the only person in that country who had never heard of it.

To account in some measure for this to the reader, I think proper to inform him, that there was no one in the kingdom less interested in opposing that doctrine concerning the meaning of the word Charity, which hath been seen in the preceding chapter, than our good man. Indeed, he was equally entitled to this virtue in either sense; for as no man was ever more sensible of the wants, or more ready to relieve the distresses of others; so none could be more tender of their characters, or slower to believe any thing to their disadvantage.

Scandal, therefore, never found any access to his table: for, as it hath been long since observed, that you may know a man by his companions; so I will venture to say, that by attending to the conversation at a great man's table, you may satisfy yourself of his religion, his politics, his taste, and indeed of his entire disposition; for though a few odd fellows will utter their own sentiments in all places, yet much the greater part of mankind have enough of the courtier to accommodate their conversation to the taste and inclination of their superiors.

But to return to Mrs. Wilkins, who having executed her commission with great dispatch, though at fifteen miles distance. brought back such a confirma-

tion of the schoolmaster's guilt, that Mr. Allworthy determined to send for the criminal, and examine him *viva voce*. Mr. Partridge, therefore, was summoned to attend, in order to his defence (if he could make any) against his accusation.

At the time appointed, before Mr. Allworthy himself, at Paradise-Hall, came as well the said Partridge, with Anne his wife, as Mrs. Wilkins, his accuser.

And now Mr. Allworthy being seated in the chair of justice, Mr. Partridge was brought before him. Having heard his accusation from the mouth of Mrs. Wilkins, he pleaded, Not guilty, making many vehement protestations of his innocence.

Mrs. Partridge was then examined, who, after a modest apology for being obliged to speak the truth against her husband, related all the circumstances with which the reader hath already been acquainted; and at last concluded with her husband's confession of his guilt.

Whether she had forgiven him or no, I will not venture to determine: But it is certain, she was an unwilling witness in this cause, and it is probable, from certain other reasons, would never have been brought to depose as she did, had not Mrs. Wilkins, with great art fished all out of her, at her own house, and had she not indeed made promises in Mr. Allworthy's name, that the punishment of her husband should not be such as might any wise affect his family.

Partridge still persisted in asserting his innocence, though he admitted he had made the above-mentioned confession; which he however endeavoured to account for, by protesting that he was forced into it by the continual importunity she used, who vowed, that as she was sure of his guilt, she would never leave tormenting him till he had owned it, and faithfully promised, that in such case, she would never mention it to him more. Hence, he said, he had been induced falsely to confess himself guilty, though  
he

he was innocent ; and that he believed he should have confessed a murder from the same motive.

Mrs. Partridge could not bear this imputation with patience ; and having no other remedy, in the present place, but tears, she called forth a plentiful assistance from them, and then addressing herself to Mr. Allworthy, she said, (or rather cried) ‘ May it please your worship, there never was any poor woman so injured as I am by that base man : for this is not the only instance of his falshood to me. No, may it please your worship, he hath injured my bed many’s the good time and often. I could have put up with his drunkenness and neglect of his business, if he had not broke one of the sacred *commandments*. Besides, if it had been out of doors, I had not mattered it so much ; but with my own servant, in my own house, under my own roof ; to defile my own chaste bed, which to be sure he hath with his beahtly stinking whores. Yes, you villain, you have defiled my own bed, you have ; and then you have charged me with *bullocking* you into owning the truth. It is very likely, an’t please your worship, that I should *bullock* him.—I have marks enow about my body to shew of his cruelty to me. If you had been a man, you villain, you would have scorned to injure a woman in that manner. But you an’t half a man, you know it.—Nor have you been half a husband to me. You need run after whores, you need, when I’m sure—And since he provokes me, I am ready, an’t please your worship, to take my bodily oath, that I found them a-bed together. What, you have forgot, I suppose, when you beat me into a fit, and made the blood run down my forehead, because I only civilly taxed you with your adultery ! But I can prove it by all my neighbours. You have almost broke my heart, you have, you have.’

Here Mr. Allworthy interrupted, and begged her to be pacified, promising her that she should have justice ;

then turning to Partridge, who stood aghast, one half of his wits being hurried away by surprize, and the other half by fear, he said, he was sorry to see there was so wicked a man in the world. He assured him that his prevaricating and lying backward and forward was a great aggravation of his guilt; for which, the only atonement he could make, was by confession and repentance. He exhorted him, therefore, to begin by immediately confessing the fact, and not to persist in denying what was so plainly proved against him, even by his own wife.

Here, reader, I beg your patience a moment, while I make a just compliment to the great wisdom and sagacity of our law, which refuses to admit the evidence of a wife for or against her husband. This, says a certain learned author, who, I believe, was never quoted before in any but a law-book, would be the means of creating an eternal dissention between them. It would, indeed, be the means of much perjury, and of much whipping, fining, imprisoning, transporting, and hanging.

Partridge stood a while silent, till being bid to speak, he said, he had already spoken the truth, and appealed to Heaven for his innocence, and lastly, to the girl herself, whom he desired his worship immediately to send for; for he was ignorant, or at least pretended to be so, that she had left that part of the country.

Mr. Allworthy, whose natural love of justice, joined to his coolness of temper, made him always a most patient magistrate in hearing all the witnesses which an accused person could produce in his defence, agreed to defer his final determination of this matter, till the arrival of Jenny, for whom he immediately dispatched a messenger; and then having recommended peace between Partridge and his wife, (though he addressed himself chiefly to the wrong person) he appointed them to attend again the third day; for he

had

had sent Jenny a whole day's journey from his own house.

At the appointed time the parties all assembled, when the messenger returning brought word, that Jenny was not to be found : for that she had left her habitation a few days before, in company with a recruiting officer.

Mr. Allworthy then declared, that the evidence of such a slut, as she appeared to be, would have deserved no credit ; but he said he could not help thinking, that had she been present, and would have declared the truth, she must have confirmed what so many circumstances, together with his own confession, and the declaration of his wife, that she had caught her husband in the fact, did sufficiently prove. He therefore once more exhorted Partridge to confess ; but he still avowing his innocence, Mr. Allworthy declared himself satisfied of his guilt, and that he was too bad a man to receive any encouragement from him. He therefore deprived him of his annuity, and recommended repentance to him, on account of another world, and industry to maintain himself and his wife in this.

There were not, perhaps, many more unhappy persons than poor Partridge. He had lost the best part of his income by the evidence of his wife, and yet was daily upbraided by her for having, among other things, been the occasion of depriving her of that benefit : but such was his fortune, and he was obliged to submit to it.

Though I called him poor Partridge in the last paragraph, I would have the reader rather impute that epithet to the compassion of my temper, than conceive it to be any declaration of his innocence. Whether he was innocent or not, will perhaps appear hereafter ; but if the historic muse hath entrusted me with any secrets, I will by no means be guilty of discovering them till she shall give me leave.

Here, therefore, the reader must suspend his curiosity.

osity. Certain it is, that whatever was the truth of the case, there was evidence more than sufficient to convict him before Allworthy; indeed much less would have satisfied a bench of justices on an order of bastardy; and yet, notwithstanding the positiveness of Mrs. Partridge, who would have taken the sacrament upon the matter, there is a possibility that the schoolmaster was entirely innocent: for though it appeared clear, on comparing the time when Jenny departed from Little Baddington, with that of her delivery, that she had there conceived this infant, yet it by no means followed, of necessity, that Partridge must have been its father: for, to omit other particulars, there was in the same house a lad near eighteen, between whom, and Jenny, there had subsisted sufficient intimacy to found a reasonable suspicion; and yet so blind is jealousy, this circumstance never once entered into the head of the enraged wife.

Whether Partridge repented or not, according to Mr. Allworthy's advice, is not so apparent. Certain it is, that his wife repented heartily of the evidence she had given against him; especially when she found Mrs. Deborah had deceived her, and refused to make any application to Mr. Allworthy on her behalf. She had however somewhat better success with Mrs. Blifil, who was, as the reader must have perceived, a much better tempered woman; and very kindly undertook to solicit her brother to restore the annuity. In which, though good nature might have some share, yet a stronger and more natural motive will appear in the next chapter.

These solicitations were nevertheless unsuccessful; for though Mr. Allworthy did not think, with some late writers, that mercy consists only in punishing offenders; yet he was as far from thinking that it is proper to this excellent quality to pardon great criminals wantonly, without any reason whatever. Any doubtfulness of the fact, or any circumstance of mitigation, was never disregarded; but the petitions of

an offender, or the intercessions of others, did not in the least affect him. In a word, he never pardoned, because the offender himself, or his friends, were unwilling that he should be punished.

Partridge and his wife were therefore both obliged to submit to their fate; which was indeed severe enough: for so far was he from doubling his industry on the account of his lessened income, that he did in a manner abandon himself to despair; and as he was by nature indolent, that vice now encreased upon him, by which means he lost the little school he had; so that neither his wife nor himself would have had any bread to eat, had not the charity of some good christian interposed, and provided them with what was just sufficient for their sustenance.

As this support was conveyed to them by an unknown hand, they imagined, and so, I doubt not, will the reader, that Mr. Allworthy himself was their secret benefactor; who, though he would not openly encourage vice, could yet privately relieve the distresses of the vicious themselves, when these became too exquisite and disproportionate to their demerit. In which light, their wretchedness appeared now to Fortune herself; for she at length took pity on this miserable couple, and considerably lessened the wretched state of Partridge, by putting a final end to that of his wife, who soon after caught the small-pox and died.

The justice which Mr. Allworthy had executed on Partridge, at first met with universal approbation; but no sooner had he felt its consequences, than his neighbours began to relent, and to compassionate his case; and presently after, to blame that as rigour and severity, which they before called justice. They now exclaimed against punishing in cold blood, and sang forth the praises of mercy and forgiveness.

These cries were considerably increased by the death of Mrs. Partridge, which though owing to the distemper above-mentioned, which is no consequence



quence of poverty or distress, many were not ashamed to impute to Mr. Allworthy's severity, or, as they now termed it, cruelty.

Partridge having now lost his wife, his school, and his annuity, and the unknown person having now discontinued the last mentioned charity, resolved to change the scene, and left the country, where he was in danger of starving with the universal compassion of all his neighbours.

## C H A P. VII.

*A short sketch of that felicity which prudent couples may extract from hatred; with a short apology for those people who overlook imperfections in their friends.*

**T**HOUGH the captain had effectually demolished poor Partridge, yet he had not reaped the harvest he hoped for, which was to turn the foundling out of Mr. Allworthy's house.

On the contrary, that gentleman grew every day sonder of little Tommy, as if he intended to counterbalance his severity to the father with extraordinary fondness and affection towards the son.

This a good deal soured the captain's temper, as did all the other daily instances of Mr. Allworthy's generosity: for he looked on all such largesses to be diminutions of his own wealth.

In this we have said, he did not agree with his wife; nor indeed in any thing else: for though an affection placed on the understanding is by many wise persons thought more durable than that which is founded on beauty, yet it happened otherwise in the present case. Nay the understandings of this couple were their principal bone of contention, and one great cause of many quarrels, which from time to time arose between them; and which at last ended, on the side of the lady, in a sovereign contempt for her



her husband; and on the husband's in an utter abhorrence of his wife.

As these had both exercised their talents chiefly in the study of divinity, this was from their first acquaintance the most common topic of conversation between them. The captain, like a well bred man, had before marriage always given up his opinion to that of the lady; and this not in the clumsy awkward manner of a conceited blockhead, who, while he civilly yields to a superior in an argument, is desirous of being still known to think himself in the right. The captain, on the contrary, though one of the proudest fellows in the world, so absolutely yielded the victory to his antagonist, that she, who had not the least doubt of his sincerity, retired always from the dispute, with an admiration of her own understanding, and a love for his.

But though this complaisance to one whom the captain thoroughly despised, was not so uneasy to him, as it would have been, had any hopes of preferment made it necessary to shew the same submission to a Hoadley, or to some other of great reputation in the science; yet even this cost him too much to be endured without some motive. Matrimony, therefore having removed all such motives, he grew weary of this condescension, and began to treat the opinions of his wife with that haughtiness and insolence, which none but those who deserve some contempt themselves can bestow, and those only who deserve no contempt can bear.

When the first torrent of tenderness was over, and when, in the calm and long interval between the fits, reason began to open the eyes of the lady, and she saw this alteration of behaviour in the captain, who at length answered all her arguments only with pish and pshaw, she was far from enduring the indignity with a tame submission. Indeed it at first so highly provoked her, that it might have produced some tragical event, had it not taken a more harmless

less turn, by filling her with the utmost contempt for her husband's understanding, which somewhat qualified her hatred towards him; though of this likewise she had a pretty moderate share.

The captain's hatred to her was of a purer kind: for as to any imperfections in her knowledge or understanding, he no more despised her for them, than for her not being six feet high. In his opinion of the female sex, he exceeded the moroseness of Aristotle himself: he looked on a woman as on an animal of domestic use, of somewhat higher consideration than a cat, since her offices were of rather more importance; but the difference between these two was, in his estimation, so small, that in his marriage contracted with Mr. Allworthy's lands and tenements, it would have been pretty equal which of them he had taken into the bargain. And yet so tender was his pride, that it felt the contempt which his wife now began to express towards him; and this, added to the surfeit he had before taken of her love, created in him a degree of disgust and abhorrence, perhaps hardly to be exceeded.

One situation only of the married state is excluded from pleasure; and that is, a state of indifference: but, as many of my readers, I hope, know what an exquisite delight there is in conveying pleasure to a beloved object, so some few, I am afraid, may have experienced the satisfaction of tormenting one we hate. It is, I apprehend, to come at this latter pleasure, that we see both sexes often give up that ease in marriage, which they might otherwise possess, though their mate was never so disagreeable to them. Hence the wife often puts on fits of love and jealousy, nay, even denies herself any pleasure, to prevent and disturb those of her husband: and he again, in return, puts frequent restraints on himself, and stays at home in company which he dislikes, in order to confine his wife to what she equally detests. Hence too must flow those tears which a widow sometimes

so plentifully sheds over the ashes of a husband, with whom she led a life of constant disquiet and turbulence, and whom now she can never hope to torment any more.

But if ever any couple enjoyed this pleasure, it was at present experienced by the captain and his lady. It was always a sufficient reason to either of them to be obstinate in any opinion, that the other had previously asserted the contrary. If the one proposed any amusement, the other constantly objected to it: they never loved or hated, commended or abused the same person. And for this reason, as the captain looked with an evil eye on the little foundling, his wife began now to caress it almost equally with her own child.

The reader will be apt to conceive, that this behaviour between the husband and wife did not greatly contribute to Mr. Allworthy's repose, as it tended so little to that serene happiness which he had proposed to all three, from this alliance; but the truth is, though he might be a little disappointed in his sanguine expectations, yet he was far from being acquainted with the whole matter: for, as the captain was, from certain obvious reasons, much on his guard before him, the lady was obliged, for fear of her brother's displeasure, to pursue the same conduct. In fact, it is possible for a third person, to be very intimate, nay even to live long in the house, with a married couple, who have any tolerable discretion, and not even guess at the four sentiments which they bear to each other; for though the whole day may be sometimes too short for hatred, as well as for love; yet the many hours which they naturally spend together, apart from all observers, furnish people of tolerable moderation, with such ample opportunity for the enjoyment of either passion, that if they love, they can support being a few hours in company, without toying, or if they hate, without spitting in each others faces.

It is possible, however, that Mr. Allworthy saw enough to render him a little uneasy; for we are not always to conclude, that a wise man is not hurt, because he doth not cry out and lament himself, like those of a childish or effeminate temper. But indeed it is possible, he might see some faults in the captain, without any uneasiness at all: for men of true wisdom and goodness are contented to take persons and things as they are, without complaining of their imperfections, or attempting to amend them. They can see a fault in a friend, a relation, or an acquaintance, without ever mentioning it to the parties themselves, or to any others; and this often without the least lessening their affection. Indeed, unless great discernment be tempered with this overlooking disposition, we ought never to contract friendship but with a degree of folly which we can deceive: for I hope my friends will pardon me, when I declare, I know none of them without a fault; and I should be sorry if I could imagine I had any friend who could not see mine. Forgiveness, of this kind, we give and demand in turn. It is an exercise of friendship, and, perhaps, none of the least pleasant. And this forgiveness we must bestow, without desire of amendment. There is, perhaps, no surer mark of folly, than an attempt to correct the natural infirmities of those we love. The finest composition of human nature, as well as the finest china, may have a flaw in it; and this, I am afraid, in either case, is equally incurable; though, nevertheless, the pattern may remain of the highest value.

Upon the whole then, Mr. Allworthy certainly saw some imperfections in the captain; but, as this was a very artful man, and eternally upon his guard before him, these appeared to him no more than blemishes in a good character; which his goodness made him overlook, and his wisdom prevented him from discovering to the captain himself. Very different would have been his sentiments, had he discovered

covered the whole ; which perhaps, would, in time, have been the case, had the husband and wife long continued this kind of behaviour to each other ; but this kind fortune took effectual means to prevent, by forcing the captain to do that which rendered him again dear to his wife, and restored all her tenderness and affection towards him.

## C H A P. VIII.

*A receipt to regain the lost affections of a wife, which hath never been known to fail in the most desperate cases.*

THE captain was made large amends for the unpleasant minutes which he passed in the conversation of his wife, (and which were as few as he could contrive to make them) by the pleasant meditations he enjoyed when alone.

These meditations were entirely employed on Mr. Allworthy's fortune ; for first, he exercised much thought in calculating, as well as he could, the exact value of the whole ; which calculations he often saw occasion to alter in his own favour : and secondly, and chiefly, he pleased himself with intended alterations in the house and gardens, and in projecting many other schemes, as well for the improvement of the estate, as of the grandeur of the place. For this purpose he applied himself to the studies of architecture and gardening, and read over many books on both these subjects ; for these sciences indeed, employed his whole time, and formed his only amusement. He, at last, compleated a most excellent plan and very sorry we are, that it is not in our power to present it to our reader, since even the luxury of the present age, I believe, would hardly match it. It had, indeed, in a superlative degree, the two principal ingredients which serve to recommend all great  
and

and noble designs of this nature; for it required an immoderate expence to execute, and a vast length of time to bring it to any sort of perfection. The former of these, the immense wealth of which the captain supposed Mr. Allworthy possessed, and which he thought himself sure of inheriting, promised very effectually to supply: and the latter, the soundness of his own constitution; and his time of life, which was only what is called middle age, removed all apprehension of his not living to accomplish.

Nothing was wanting to enable him to enter upon the immediate execution of this plan, but the death of Mr. Allworthy; in calculating which he had employed much of his own algebra, besides purchasing every book extant that treats of the value of lives, reversions, &c. From all which he satisfied himself, that as he had every day a chance of this happening, so had he more than an even chance of its happening within a few years.

But while the captain was one day busied in deep contemplations of this kind, one of the most unlucky, as well as unseasonable accidents happened to him. The utmost malice of fortune could, indeed, have contrived nothing so cruel, so mal-à-propos, so absolutely destructive to all his schemes. In short, not to keep the reader in long suspense, just at the very instant when his heart was exulting in meditations on the happiness which would accrue to him by Mr. Allworthy's death, he himself—died of an apoplexy.

This unfortunately befel the captain as he was taking his evening-walk by himself, so that no body was present to lend him any assistance, if indeed any assistance could have preserved him. He took, therefore, measure of that proportion of soil, which was now become adequate to all his future purposes, and he lay dead on the ground, a great (tho' not a living) example of the truth of that observation of Horace:

Tu secunda marmora

‘ Locas sub ipsum funus : & sepulchri  
‘ Immemor, struis domos.’

Which sentiment, I shall thus give to the English reader : ‘ You provide the noblest materials for building, when a pick-axe and a spade are only necessary ; and build houses of five hundred by a hundred sect, forgetting that of six by two.’

# G H A R. IX.

*A proof of the infallibility of the foregoing receipt, in the lamentations of the widow ; with other suitable decorations of death, such as physicians, &c. and an epitaph in the true stile.*

**M**R. Allworthy, his sister, and another lady, were assembled at the accustomed hour in the supper-room, where having waited a considerable time longer than usual ; Mr. Allworthy first declared, he began to grow uneasy at the captain’s stay ; (for he was always most punctual at his meals), and gave orders that the bell should be rung without the doors, and especially towards those walks which the captain was wont to use.

All these summons proving ineffectual, (for the captain had, by perverse accident, betaken himself to a new walk that evening) Mrs. Blifil declared she was seriously frightened. Upon which the other lady, who was one of her most intimate acquaintance, and who well knew the true state of her affections, endeavoured all she could to pacify her ; telling her—To be sure she could not help being uneasy ; but that she should hope the best ; that, perhaps, the sweetness of the evening had enticed the captain to go farther than his usual walk ; or he might

might be detained at some neighbour's. Mrs. Blifil answered, No; she was sure some accident had befallen him: for that he would never stay out without sending her word, as he must know how uneasy it would make her. The other lady, having no other arguments to use, betook herself to the entreaties usual on such occasions, and begged her not to frighten herself, for it might be of very ill consequence to her own health; and, filling out a very large glass of wine, advised, and at last prevailed with, her to drink it.

Mr. Allworthy now returned into the parlour; for he had been himself in search after the captain. His countenance sufficiently shewed the consternation he was under, which, indeed, had a good deal deprived him of speech; but as grief operates variously on different minds, so the same apprehension which depressed his voice, elevated that of Mrs. Blifil. She now began to bewail herself in very bitter terms, and floods of tears accompanied her lamentations, which the lady, her companion, declared she could not blame; but, at the same time, dissuaded her from indulging; attempting to moderate the grief of her friend, by philosophical observations on the many disappointments to which human life is daily subject, which, she said, was a sufficient consideration to fortify our minds against any accidents, how sudden or terrible soever. She said, her brother's example ought to teach her patience, who, tho' indeed he could not be supposed as much concerned as herself, yet was, doubtless, very uneasy, though his resignation to the Divine Will had restrained his grief within due bounds.

'Mention not my brother,' said Mrs. Blifil, 'I alone am the object of your pity. What are the terrors of friendship to what a wife feels on these occasions? O he is lost! Somebody hath murdered him—I shall never see him more'—Here a torrent of



of tears had the same consequence with what the suppression had occasioned to Mr. Allworthy; and she remained silent.

At this interval, a servant came running in, out of breath, and cried out, 'The captain was found;' and, before he could proceed farther, he was followed by two more, bearing the dead body between them.

Here the curious reader may observe another diversity in the operations of grief: for as Mr. Allworthy had been before silent, from the cause which had made his sister vociferous; so did the present sight, which drew tears from the gentleman, put an entire stop to those of the lady; who first gave a violent scream, and presently after fell into a fit.

The room was soon full of servants, some of whom, with the lady visitant, were employed in care of the wife; and others, with Mr. Allworthy; assisted in carrying off the captain to a warm bed, where every method was tried, in order to receive him to life.

And glad should we be, could we inform the reader, that both these bodies had been attended with equal success; for those who undertook the care of the lady, succeeded so well, that, after the fit had continued a decent time, she again revived, to their great satisfaction: but as to the captain, all experiments of bleeding, chafing, dropping, &c. proved ineffectual. Death, that inexorable judge, had passed sentence on him, and refused to grant him a reprieve, tho' two doctors who arrived, and were fee'd at one and the same instant, were his council.

These two doctors, whom to avoid any malicious applications, we shall distinguish by the names of Dr. Y. and Dr. Z. Having felt his pulse; to wit, Dr. Y. his right arm, and Dr. Z. his left, both agreed that he was absolutely dead; but as to the distemper, or cause of his death, they differed; Dr.

Y. hold.

Y. holding that he had died of an apoplexy, and Dr. Z. of an epilepsy.

Hence arose a dispute between the learned men, in which each delivered the reasons of their several opinions. These were of such equal force, that they served both to confirm either doctor in his own sentiments, and made not the least impression on his adversary.

To say the truth, every physician, almost, hath his favourite disease, to which he ascribes all the victories obtained over human nature. The gout, the rheumatism, the stone, the gravel, and the consumption, have all their several patrons in the faculty; and none more than the nervous fever, or the fever on the spirits. And here we may account for those disagreements in opinion, concerning the cause of a patient's death, which sometimes occur between the most learned of the college; and which have greatly surprized that part of the world who have been ignorant of the fact we have above asserted.

The reader may, perhaps, be surprized, that instead of endeavouring to revive the patient, the learned gentlemen should fall immediately into a dispute on the occasion of his death; but in reality, all such experiments had been made before their arrival: for the captain was put into a warm bed, had his veins scarified, his forehead chafed, and all sorts of strong drops applied to his lips and nostrils.

The physicians, therefore, finding themselves anticipated in every thing they ordered, were at a loss how to employ that portion of time which it is usual and decent to remain for their fee, and were therefore necessitated to find some subject or other for discourse; and what could more naturally present itself than that before mentioned?

Our doctors were about to take their leave, when Mr. Allworthy, having given over the captain, and acquiesced in the Divine Will, began to enquire af-

ter his sister, whom he desired them to visit before their departure.

This lady was now recovered of her fit, and to use the common phrase, as well as could be expected for one in her condition. The doctors, therefore, all previous ceremonies being complied with, as this was a new patient, attended, according to desire, and laid hold on each of her hands, as they had before done on those of the corpse.

The case of the lady was in the other extreme from that of her husband; for, as he was past all the assistance of physic, so, in reality, she required none.

There is nothing more unjust than the vulgar opinion by which physicians are misrepresented as friends to death. On the contrary, I believe, if the number of those who recover by physic, could be opposed to that of the martyrs to it, the former would rather exceed the latter. Nay, some are so cautious on this head, that, to avoid a possibility of killing the patient, they abstain from all methods of curing, and prescribe nothing but what can neither do good nor harm. I have heard some of these, with great gravity, deliver it as a maxim, 'That nature should be left to do her own work, while the physician stands by, as it were, to clap her on the back, and encourage her when she doth well.'

So little then did our doctors delight in death, that they discharged the corpse after a single fee: but they were not so disgusted with their living patient; concerning whose case they immediately agreed, and fell to prescribing with great diligence.

Whether, as the lady had, at first, persuaded her physicians to believe her ill, they had now, in return, persuaded her to believe herself so, I will not determine; but she continued a whole month with all the decorations of sickness. During this time she was visited by physicians, attended by nurses, and received constant messages from her acquaintance, to enquire after her health.

## THE HISTORY OF

At length the decent time for sickness and immoderate grief being expired, the doctors were discharged, and the lady began to see company; being altered only from what she was before, by that colour of sadness in which she had dressed her person and countenance.

The captain was now interred, and might, perhaps, have already made a large progress towards oblivion, had not the friendship of Mr. Allworthy taken care to preserve his memory, by the following epitaph, which was written by a man of as great genius as integrity, and one who perfectly well knew the captain.

Here lies,  
In expectation of a joyful rising,  
The body of  
**Captain JOHN BLIFIL.**  
**LONDON**  
had the honour of his birth,  
**OXFORD**  
of his education.

His parts  
were an honour to his profession  
and to his country:

His life to his religion  
and human nature.

He was a dutiful son,  
a tender husband,  
an affectionate father,  
a most kind brother,  
a sincere friend,  
a devout Christian,  
and a good man.

His inconstant widow  
hath erected this stone,

The monument of  
His virtues,  
and of her affection.

## B O O K III.

*Containing the most memorable transactions which passed in the family of Mr. Allworthy, from the time when Tommy Jones arrived at the age of fourteen, till he attained the age of nineteen. In this book the reader may pick up some hints concerning the education of children.*

## C H A P. I.

*Containing little or nothing.*

**T**HE reader will be pleased to remember, that at the beginning of the second book of this history, we gave him a hint of our intention to pass over several large periods of time, in which nothing happened worthy of being recorded in a chronicle of this kind.

In so doing, we do not only consult our own dignity and ease, but the good and advantage of the reader: for besides, that by these means we prevent him from throwing away his time, in reading either without pleasure or emolument, we give him, at all such seasons, an opportunity of employing that wonderful sagacity, of which he is master, by filling up these vacant spaces of time with his own conjectures; for which purpose, we have taken care to qualify him in the preceding pages.

For instance, what reader but knows that Mr. Allworthy felt, at first, for the loss of his friend, those emotions of grief, which, on such occasions, enter into all men whose hearts are not composed of flint, or their heads of as solid materials? Again, what reader doth not know, that philosophy and religion, in time, moderated, and at last extinguished this

grief? The former of these teaching the folly and vanity of it, and the latter correcting it, as unlawful, and at the same time assuaging it, by raising future hopes and assurances, which enable a strong and religious mind to take leave of a friend, on his death-bed, with little less indifference than if he was preparing for a long journey; and, indeed, with little less hope of seeing him again.

Nor can the judicious reader be at a greater loss on account of Mrs. Bridget Blifil, who, he may be assured, conducted herself through the whole season in which grief is to make its appearance on the outside of the body, with the strictest regard to all the rules of custom and decency, suiting the alterations of her countenance to the several alterations of her habit: for as this changed from weeds to black, from black to grey, from grey to white, so did her countenance change from dismal to sorrowful, from sorrowful to sad, and from sad to serious, till the day came in which she was allowed to return to her former serenity.

We have mentioned these two as examples only of the task which may be imposed on readers of the lowest class. Much higher and harder exercises of judgment and penetration may reasonably be expected from the upper graduates in criticism. Many notable discoveries will, I doubt not, be made by such, of the transactions which happened in the family of our worthy man, during all the years which we have thought proper to pass over: for though nothing worthy of a place in this history occurred within that period; yet did several incidents happen, of equal importance with those reported by the daily and weekly histories of the age, in reading which, great numbers of persons consume a considerable part of their time, very little, I am afraid, to their emolument. Now, in the conjectures here proposed, some of the most excellent faculties of the mind may be employed to much advantage, since it is a more use-

ful capacity to be able to foretell the actions of men, in any circumstance, from their characters, than to judge of their characters from their actions. The former, I own, requires the greater penetration; but may be accomplished by true sagacity, with no less certainty than the latter.

As we are sensible that much the greatest part of our readers are very eminently possessed of this quality, we have left them a space of twelve years to exert it in; and shall now bring forth our hero, at about fourteen years of age, not questioning that many have been long impatient to be introduced to his acquaintance.

## C H A P. II.

*The hero of this great history appears with very bad omens.*

*A little tale, of so low a kind, that some may think it not worth their notice. A word or two concerning a squire, and more relating to a game-keeper, and a schoolmaster.*

AS we determined when we first sat down to write this history, to flatter no man, but to guide our pen throughout by the directions of truth, we are obliged to bring our hero on the stage in a much more disadvantageous manner than we could wish; and to declare honestly, even at his first appearance, that it was the universal opinion of all Mr. Allworthy's family, that he was certainly born to be hanged.

Indeed, I am sorry to say, there was too much reason for this conjecture; the lad having, from his earliest years, discovered a propensity to many vices, and especially to one, which hath as direct a tendency as any other to that fate, which we have just now observed to have been prophetically denounced against him. He had been already convicted of three



robberies, viz. of robbing an orchard, of stealing a duck out of a farmer's yard, and of picking Master Blifil's pocket of a ball.

The vices of this young man were, moreover, heightened by the disadvantageous light in which they appeared, when opposed to the virtues of Master Blifil, his companion: a youth of so different a cast from little Jones, that not only the family, but all the neighbourhood resounded his praises. He was, indeed, alad of remarkable disposition; sober, discreet, and pious beyond his age: qualities which gained him the love of every one who knew him, whilst Tom Jones was universally disliked; and many expressed their wonder that Mr. Allworthy would suffer such a lad to be educated with his nephew, lest the morals of the latter should be corrupted by his example.

An incident which happened about this time, will set the character of these two lads more fairly before the discerning reader, than is in the power of the longest dissertation.

Tom Jones, who, bad as he is, must serve for the hero of this history, had only one friend among all the servants of the family; for as to Mrs. Wilkins she had long since given him up, and was perfectly reconciled to her mistress. This friend was the game-keeper, a fellow of a loose kind of disposition, and who was thought not to entertain much stricter notions concerning the difference of *meum* and *tuum* than the young gentleman himself. And hence this friendship gave occasion to many sarcastical remarks among the domestics, most of which were either proverbs before, or at least are become so now; and indeed the wit of them all may be comprised in that short Latin proverb, '*Nescitur a socio,*' which I think is thus expressed in English, 'You may know him by the company he keeps.'

To say the truth, some of that atrocious wickedness in Jones, of which we have just mentioned three examples,



examples, might perhaps be derived from the encouragement he had received from this fellow, who, in two or three instances, had been what the law calls an accessory after the fact. For the whole duck, and great part of the apples were converted to the use of the game-keeper and his family: though as Jones alone was discovered, the poor lad bore not only the whole smart, but the whole blame; both which fell again to his lot, on the following occasion.

Contiguous to Mr. Allworthy's estate, was the manor of one of those gentlemen, who are called preservers of the game. This species of men, from the great severity with which they revenge the death of a hare or a partridge, might be thought to cultivate the same superstition with the Bannians in India; many of whom, we are told, dedicate their whole lives to the preservation and protection of certain animals, was it not that our English Bannians, while they preserve them from other enemies, will most unmercifully slaughter whole horse-loads themselves, so that they stand clearly acquitted of any such heathenish superstition.

I have indeed a much better opinion of this kind of men than is entertained by some, as I take them to answer the order of nature, and the good purposes for which they were ordained, in a more ample manner than many others. Now, as Horace tells us, that there are a set of human beings

*'Fruges consumere nati,'*

'Born to consume the fruits of the earth.' So I make no manner of doubt but that there are others,

*'Feras consumere nati,'*

'Born to consume the beasts of the field,' or as it is commonly called the game; and none, I believe,

will deny but that those squires fulfil this end of their creation.

Little Jones went one day a-shooting with the game-keeper, when, happening to spring a covey of partridges near the border of that manor, over which Fortune, to fulfil the wise purposes of Nature, had planted one of the game consumers, the birds flew into it, and were marked (as it is called) by the two sportsmen, in some furze-bushes, about two or three hundred paces beyond Mr. Allworthy's dominions.

Mr. Allworthy had given the fellow strict orders, on pain of forfeiting his place, never to trespass on any of his neighbours: no more on those who were less rigid in this matter, than on the lord of this manor. With regard to others indeed these orders had not been always very scrupulously kept; but as the disposition of the gentleman with whom the partridges had taken sanctuary, was well known, the game-keeper had never yet attempted to invade his territories. Nor had he done it now, had not the younger sportsman, who was excessively eager to pursue the flying game, over persuaded him; but Jones being very importunate, the other, who was himself keen enough after the sport, yielded to his persuasions, entered the manor, and shot one of the partridges.

The gentleman himself was at that time on horse-back, at a little distance from them; and hearing the gun go off, he immediately made towards the place, and discovered poor Tom: for the game-keeper had leapt into the thickest part of the furz-brake, where he had happily concealed himself.

The gentleman having searched the lad, and found the partridge upon him, denounced great vengeance, swearing he would acquaint Mr. Allworthy. He was as good as his word; for he rode immediately to his house, and complained of the trespass on his manor, in as high terms, and as bitter language, as if

if his house had been broken open, and the most valuable furniture stole out of it. He added, that some other person was in his company, though he could not discover him; for that two guns had been discharged almost in the same instant. And, says he, 'we have found only this partridge, but the Lord knows what mischief they have done.'

At his return home, Tom was presently convened before Mr. Allworthy. He owned the fact, and alleged no other excuse but what was really true, viz. that the covey was originally sprung in Mr. Allworthy's own manor.

Tom was then interrogated who was with him, which Mr. Allworthy declared he was resolved to know, acquainting the culprit with the circumstance of the two guns, which had been deposed by the squire and both his servants; but Tom stoutly persisted in asserting that he was alone: yet, to say the truth, he hesitated a little at first, which would have confirmed Mr. Allworthy's belief, had what the squire and his servants said wanted any further confirmation.

The game-keeper being a suspected person, was now sent for, and the question put to him; but he, relying on the promise which Tom had made him, to take all upon himself, very resolutely denied being in company with the young gentleman, or indeed having him the whole afternoon.

Mr. Allworthy then turned towards Tom, with more than usual anger in his countenance, and advised him to confess who was with him; repeating, that he was resolved to know. The lad, however, still maintained his resolution, and was dismissed with much wrath by Mr. Allworthy, who told him, he should have to the next morning to consider of it, when he should be questioned by another person, and in another manner.

Poor Jones spent a very melancholy night, and the more so, as he was without his usual companion; for

Master Blifil was gone abroad on a visit with his mother. Fear of the punishment he was to suffer, was on this occasion his least evil; his chief anxiety being, lest his constancy should fail him, and he should be brought to betray the game-keeper, whose ruin he knew must now be the consequence.

Nor did the game-keeper pass his time much better. He had the same apprehensions with the youth; for whose honour he had likewise a much tenderer regard than for his skin.

In the morning, when Tom attended the reverend Mr. Thwackum, the person to whom Mr. Allworthy had committed the instruction of the two boys, he had the same questions put to him by that gentleman, which he had been asked the evening before, to which he returned the same answers. The consequence of this was so severe a whipping, that it possibly fell little short of the torture with which confessions are in some countries extorted from criminals.

Tom bore this punishment with great resolution; and though his master asked him between every stroke, whether he would not confess, he was contented to be dead rather than betray his friend, or break the promise he had made.

The game-keeper was now relieved from his anxiety, and Mr. Allworthy himself began to be concerned at Tom's sufferings: for, besides that Mr. Thwackum, being highly enraged that he was not able to make the boy say what he himself pleased, had carried his severity much beyond the good man's intention, this latter began now to suspect that the squire had been mistaken; which his extreme eagerness and anger seemed to make probable; and as for what the servants had said in confirmation of their master's account, he laid no great stress upon that. Now, as cruelty and injustice were two ideas, of which Mr. Allworthy could by no means support the consciousness a single moment, he sent for Tom, and after many kind and friendly exhortations, said, 'I

' am convinced, my dear child, that my suspicions have wronged you ; I am sorry that you have been so severely punished on this account.'—And at last gave him a little horse to make him amends ; again repeating his sorrow for what had past.

Tom's guilt now flew in his face more than any severity could make it. He could more easily bear the lashes of Thwackum, than the generosity of Allworthy. The tears burst from his eyes, and he fell on his knees, crying, ' Oh ! Sir, you are too good to me. Indeed, you are. Indeed, I don't deserve it.' And at that very instant, from the fulness of his heart, had almost betrayed the secret ; but the good genius of the gamekeeper suggested to him what might be the consequence to the poor fellow, and this consideration sealed his lips.

Thwackum did all he could to dissuade Allworthy from shewing any compassion or kindness to the boy, saying, ' He had persisted in an untruth ;' and gave some hints, that a second whipping might probably bring the matter to light.

But Mr. Allworthy absolutely refused to consent to the experiment. He said, the boy had suffered enough already, for concealing the truth, even if he was guilty, seeing that he could have no motive but a mistaken point of honour for so doing.

Honour ! cry'd Thwackum with some warmth, mere stubbornness and obstinacy ! can honour teach any one to tell a lie, or can any honour exist independent of religion ?

This discourse happened at table when dinner was just ended ; and there were present Mr. Allworthy, Mr. Thwackum, and a third gentleman, who now entered into the debate, and whom, before we proceed any farther, we shall briefly introduce to our reader's acquaintance.

## C H A P. III.

*The character of Mr. Square the philosopher, and of Mr. Thwackum the divine; with a dispute concerning* —

**T**HE name of this gentleman who had then resided some time at Mr. Allworthy's house, was Mr. Square. His natural parts were not of the first rate, but he had greatly improved them by a learned education. He was deeply read in the antients, and a profess master of all the works of Plato and Aristotle. Upon which great models he had principally form'd himself, sometimes according with the opinion of the one, and sometimes with that of the other. In morals he was a profess Platonist, and in religion he inclined to be an Aristotelian.

But though he had, as we have said, formed his morals on the Platonic model, yet he perfectly agreed with the opinion of Aristotle, in considering that great man rather in the quality of a philosopher or a speculatist, than as a legislator. This sentiment he carried a great way; indeed, so far, as to regard all virtue as matter of theory only. This, it is true, he never affirmed, as I have heard, to any one; and yet upon the least attention to his conduct, I cannot help thinking, it was his real opinion, as it will perfectly reconcile some contradictions, which might otherwise appear in his character.

This gentleman and Mr. Thwackum scarce ever met without a disputation; for their tenets were, indeed, diametrically opposite to each other. Square held human nature to be the perfection of all virtue, and that vice was a deviation from our nature in the same manner as deformity of body is. Thwackum, on the contrary, maintained that the human mind, since the fall, was nothing but a sink of iniquity, till — purified

purified and redeemed by grace. In one point only they agreed, which was, in all their discourses on morality never to mention the word Goodness. The favourite phrase of the former was, 'the natural beauty of virtue;' that of the latter was the 'divine power of grace.' The former measured all actions by the 'unalterable rule of right,' and the 'eternal fitness of things;' the latter decided all matters by authority: but, in doing this, he always used the scriptures and their commentators, as the lawyer doth his Coke upon Lyttleton, where the comment is of equal authority with the text.

After this short introduction, the reader will be pleased to remember, that the parson had concluded his speech with a triumphant question, to which he had apprehended no answer, viz. Can any honour exist independent on religion?

To this Square answered, that it was impossible to discourse philosophically concerning words, till their meaning was first established; that there were scarce any two words of a more vague and uncertain signification, than the two he had mentioned: for that there were almost as many different opinions concerning honour, as concerning religion. 'But,' says he, 'if by honour you mean the true natural beauty of virtue, I will maintain it may exist independent of any religion whatever. Nay, (added he) you yourself will allow it may exist independent of all but one; so will a Mahometan, a Jew, and all the maintainers of all the different sects in the world.'

Thwackum replied, This was arguing with the usual malice of all the enemies to the true church. He said, he doubted not but that all the infidels and hereticks in the world would, if they could, confine honour to their own absurd errors, and damnable deceptions: 'But honour,' says he, 'is not therefore manifold, because there are many absurd opinions about it; nor is religion manifold, because there are



are various sects and heresies in the world. When I mention religion, I mean the Christian religion; and not only the Christian religion, but the Protestant religion; and not only the Protestant religion, but the church of England. And, when I mention honour, I mean that mode of divine grace which is not only consistent with, but dependent upon, this religion; and is consistent with, and dependent upon, no other. Now to say that the honour I here mean, and which was, I thought, all the honour I could be supposed to mean, will uphold, much less dictate, an untruth, is to assert an absurdity too shocking to be conceived.'

'I purposely avoided,' says Square, 'drawing a conclusion which I thought evident from what I have said; but if you perceived it, I am sure you have not attempted to answer it. However, to drop the article of religion, I think it is plain, from what you have said, that we have different ideas of honour; or why do we not agree in the same terms of its explanation? I have asserted, that true honour and true virtue are almost synonymous terms, and they are both founded on the unalterable rule of right, and the eternal fitness of things; to which an untruth being absolutely repugnant and contrary, it is certain that true honour cannot support an untruth. In this, therefore, I think we are agreed; but that this honour can be said to be founded on religion, to which it is antecedent, if by religion be meant any positive law——'

'I agree,' answered Thwackum, with great warmth, 'with a man who asserts honour to be antecedent to religion! — Mr. Allworthy, did I agree——?'

He was proceeding, when Mr. Allworthy interposed, telling them very coldly, they had both mistaken his meaning; for that he had said nothing of true honour. — It is possible, however, he would not have

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have easily quieted the disputants, who were growing equally warm, had not another matter now fallen out, which put a final end to the conversation at present.

## C H A P. IV.

*Containing a necessary apology for the author; and a childish incident, which perhaps requires an apology likewise.*

**B**EFORE I proceed farther, I shall beg leave to obviate some misconstructions, into which the zeal of some few readers may lead them; for I would not willingly give offence to any, especially to men who are warm in the cause of virtue or religion.

I hope, therefore, no man will, by the grossest misunderstanding, or perversion, of my meaning, misrepresent me, as endeavouring to cast any ridicule on the greatest perfections of human nature; and which do, indeed, alone purify and ennoble the heart of man, and raise him above the brute creation. This, reader, I will venture to say, (and by how much the better man you are yourself, by so much the more will you be inclined to believe me) that I would rather have buried the sentiments of these two persons in eternal oblivion, than have done any injury to either of these glorious causes.

On the contrary, it is with a view to their service that I have taken upon me to record the lives and actions of two of their false and pretended champions. A treacherous friend is the most dangerous enemy; and I will say boldly, that both Religion and Virtue have received more real discredit from hypocrites, than the wittiest profligates or infidels could ever cast upon them: nay farther, as these two, in their purity, are rightly called the bands of civil society, and are indeed the greatest blessings; so when poisoned  
and

and corrupted with fraud, pretence and affectation, they have become the worst of civil curses, and have enabled men to perpetrate the most cruel mischiefs on their own species.

Indeed, I doubt not but this ridicule will in general be allowed; my chief apprehension is, as many true and just sentiments often came from the mouths of these persons, lest the whole should be taken together, and I should be conceived to ridicule all alike. Now the reader will be pleased to consider, that as neither of these men were fools, they could not be supposed to have holden none but wrong principles, and to have uttered nothing but absurdities; what injustice, therefore, must I have done to their characters, had I selected only what was bad, and how horribly wretched and maimed must their arguments have appeared!

Upon the whole, it is not religion or virtue, but the want of them, which is here exposed. Had not Thwackum too much neglected virtue, and Square religion, in the composition of their several systems; and had not both utterly discarded all natural goodness of heart, they had never been represented as the objects of derision in this history; in which we will now proceed.

This matter, then, which put an end to the debate mentioned in the last chapter, was no other than a quarrel between Master Blifil and Tom Jones, the consequence of which had been a bloody nose to the former; for though Master Blifil, notwithstanding he was the younger, was in size above the other's match, yet Tom was much his superior at the noble art of boxing.

Tom, however, cautiously avoided all engagements with that youth: for, besides that Tommy Jones was an inoffensive lad amidst all his roguery, and really loved Blifil, Mr. Thwackum being always the second of the latter, would have been sufficient to deter him.

But

But well says a certain author, No man is wise at all hours : it is therefore no wonder that a boy is not so. A difference arising at play between the two lads, Master Blifil called Tom a 'beggary bastard.' Upon which the latter, who was somewhat passionate in his disposition, immediately caused that phenomenon in the face of the former, which we have above remembered.

Master Blifil now, with his blood running from his nose, and the tears galloping after from his eyes, appeared before his uncle, and the tremendous Thwackum : in which court an indictment of assault, battery, and wounding, was instantly preferred against Tom ; who in his excuse only pleaded the provocation, which was indeed all the matter that Master Blifil had omitted.

It is indeed possible, that this circumstance might have escaped his memory ; for in his reply, he positively insisted, that he made use of no such appellation ; adding, 'Heaven forbid such naughty words should ever come out of his mouth.'

Tom, though against all form of law rejoined in affirmance of the words. Upon which Master Blifil said, 'It is no wonder. Those who will tell one fib, will hardly stick at another. If I had told my master such a wicked fib as you have done, I should be ashamed to shew my face.'

'What fib, child?' cries Thwackum pretty eagerly.

'Why, he told you that nobody was with him a shooting when he killed the partridge ; but he knows, (here he burst into a flood of tears) yes, he knows ; for he confessed it to me, that Black Jack the game-keeper was there. Nay, he said, — Yes you did, — deny it if you can, That you would not have confessed the truth, though master had cut you to pieces.'

At this the fire flashed from Thwackum's eyes ; and he cried out in triumph : 'Oh ho ! This is your mistaken notion of honour ! This is the boy who  
was

‘ was not to be whipped again !’ But Mr. Allworthy, with a more gentle aspect, turned towards the lad, and said, ‘ Is this true, child ? how came you to persist so obstinately in a falsehood ?’

Tom said, ‘ He scorned a lie as much as any one ; but he thought his honour engaged him to act as he did : for he had promised the poor fellow to conceal him ; which’ he said, ‘ he thought himself farther obliged to, as the game-keeper had begged him not to go into the gentleman’s manor, and had at last gone himself in compliance with his persuasions.’ He said, ‘ this was the whole truth of the matter, and he would take his oath of it ;’ and concluded with very passionately begging Mr. Allworthy, ‘ to have compassion on the poor fellow’s family, especially as he himself had been only guilty, and the other had been very difficultly prevailed on to do what he did.’ ‘ Indeed, Sir,’ said he, ‘ it could hardly be called a lie that I told ; for the poor fellow was entirely innocent of the whole matter. I should have gone alone after the birds ; nay, I did go at first, and he only followed me to prevent more mischief. Do, pray, Sir, let me be punished ; take my little horse away again ; but pray, Sir, forgive poor George.’

Mr. Allworthy hesitated a few moments, and then dismissed the boys, advising them to live more friendly and peaceably together.

## CHAP. V.

*The opinions of the divine and the philosopher concerning the two boys ; with some reasons for their opinions, and other matters.*

**I**T is probable, that by disclosing this secret, which had been communicated in the utmost confidence to him, young Blifl preserved his companion from a good

good lashing: for the offence of the bloody nose would have been of itself sufficient cause for Thwackum to have proceeded to correction; but now this was totally absorbed, in the consideration of the other matter; and with regard to this, Mr. Allworthy declared privately, he thought the boy deserved the reward rather than the punishment; so that Thwackum's hand was withheld by a general pardon.

Thwackum, whose meditations were full of birch, exclaimed against this weak, and, as he said, he would venture to call it, wicked lenity. To remit the punishment of such crimes, was, he said, to encourage them. He enlarged much on the correction of children, and quoted many texts from Solomon, and others; which being to be found in so many other books, shall not be found here. He then applied himself to the vice of lying, on which head he was altogether as learned as he had been on the other.

Square said, He had been endeavouring to reconcile the behaviour of Tom with his idea of perfect virtue; but could not. He owned there was something which at first sight appeared like fortitude in the action; but as fortitude was a virtue and falsehood a vice, they could by no means agree or unite together. He added, that as this was in some measure to confound virtue and vice, it might be worth Mr. Thwackum's consideration, whether a larger castigation might not be laid on upon that account.

As both these learned men concurred in censuring Jones, so were they no less unanimous in applauding Master Blifil. To bring truth to light, was by the parson asserted to be the duty of every religious man; and by the philosopher, this was declared to be highly conformable with the rule of right, and the eternal and unalterable fitness of things.

All this, however, weighed very little with Mr. Allworthy. He could not be prevailed on to sign the warrant for the execution of Jones. There was some-

something within his own breast with which the invincible fidelity which that youth had preserved, corresponded much better than it had done with the religion of Thwackum, or with the virtue of Square. He therefore strictly ordered the former of these gentlemen to abstain from laying violent hands on Tom for what had past. The pedagogue was obliged to obey those orders; but not without great reluctance and frequent mutterings, that the boy would be certainly spoiled.

Towards the game-keeper the good man behaved with more severity. He presently summoned that poor fellow before him, and after many bitter remonstrances, paid him his wages, and dismissed him from his service; for Mr. Allworthy rightly observed, that there was a great difference between being guilty of a falsehood to excuse yourself, and to excuse another. He likewise urged, as the principal motive to his inflexible severity against this man, that he had basely suffered Tom Jones to undergo so heavy a punishment for his sake, whereas he ought to have prevented it by making the discovery himself.

When this story became public, many people differed from Square and Thwackum, in judging the conduct of the two lads on the occasion. Master Blifil was generally called a sneaking rascal, a poor-spirited wretch, with other epithets of the like kind; whilst Tom was honoured with the appellations of a brave lad, a jolly dog, and an honest fellow. Indeed his behaviour to Black George much ingratiated him with all the servants; for though that fellow was before universally disliked, yet he was no sooner turned away than he was as universally pitied; and the friendship and gallantry of Tom Jones was celebrated by them all with the highest applause: and they condemned Master Blifil, as openly as they durst, without incurring the danger of offending his mother. For all this, however, poor Tom smarted in

in the flesh ; for though Thwackum had been inhibited to exercise his arm on the foregoing account, yet, as the proverb says, *It is easy to find a stick*, &c. so was it easy to find a rod ; and, indeed, the not being able to find one was the only thing which could have kept Thwackum any long time from chastising poor Jones.

Had the bare delight in the sport been the only inducement to the pedagogue, it is probable Master Blifil would likewise have had his share ; but though Mr. Allworthy had given him frequent orders to make no difference between the lads, yet was Thwackum altogether as kind and gentle to this youth, as he was harsh, nay, even barbarous, to the other. To say the truth, Blifil had greatly gained his master's affections, partly by the profound respect he always shewed his person, but much more by the decent reverence with which he received his doctrine ; for he had got by heart, and frequently repeated his phrases, and maintained all his master's religious principles with a zeal which was surprising in one so young, and which greatly endeared him to the worthy preceptor.

Tom Jones, on the other hand, was not only deficient in outward tokens of respect, often forgetting to pull off his hat, or to bow at his master's approach ; but was altogether as unmindful both of his master's precept and example. He was indeed a thoughtless, giddy youth, with little sobriety in his manners, and less in his countenance : and would often very impudently and indecently laugh at his companion for his serious behaviour.

Mr. Square had the same reason for his preference of the former lad ; for Tom Jones shewed no more regard to the learned discourses which this gentleman would sometimes throw away upon him, than to those of Thwackum. He once ventured to make a jest of the rule of right ; and at another time said, he believed there was no rule in the world capable of making



making such a man as his father, (for so Mr. Allworthy suffered himself to be called).

Master Blifil, on the contrary, had address enough at sixteen to recommend himself at one and the same time to both these opposites. With one he was all religion, with the other he was all virtue. And when both were present, he was profoundly silent, which both interpreted in his favour and their own.

Nor was Blifil contented with flattering both these gentlemen to their faces: he took frequent occasions of praising them behind their backs to Allworthy; before whom, when they were alone together, and when his uncle commended any religious or virtuous sentiment, (for many such came constantly from him) he seldom failed to ascribe it to the good instructions he had received from either Thwackum or Square: for he knew his uncle repeated all such compliments to the persons for whose use they were meant; and he found by experience the great impressions which they made on the philosopher, as well as on the divine: for, to say the truth, there is no kind of flattery so resistible as this, at second hand.

The young gentleman, moreover, soon perceived how extremely grateful all those panegyrics on his instructors were to Mr. Allworthy himself, as they so loudly resounded the praise of that singular plan of education which he had laid down: for this worthy man having observed the imperfect institution of our public schools, and the many vices which boys were there liable to learn, had resolved to educate his nephew, as well as the other lad, whom he had in a manner adopted, in his own house; where he thought their morals would escape all that danger of being corrupted, to which they would be unavoidably exposed in any public school or university.

Having therefore determined to commit these boys to the tuition of a private tutor, Mr. Thwackum was recommended to him for that office, by a very particular friend, of whose understanding Mr. Allwor-



thy had a great opinion, and in whose integrity he placed much confidence. This Thwackum was fellow of a college, where he had almost entirely resided; and had a great reputation for learning, religion, and sobriety of manners. And these were doubtless the qualifications by which Mr. Allworthy's friend had been induced to recommend him; though indeed this friend had some obligations to Thwackum's family, who were the most considerable persons in a borough which that gentleman represented in parliament.

Thwackum, at his first arrival, was extremely agreeable to Allworthy; and indeed he perfectly answered the character which had been given of him. Upon longer acquaintance, however, and more intimate conversation, this worthy man saw infirmities in the tutor, which he could have wished him to have been without; tho' as those seemed greatly overbalanced by his good qualities, they did not incline Mr. Allworthy to part with him; nor would they indeed have justified such a proceeding: for the reader is greatly mistaken, if he conceives that Thwackum appeared to Mr. Allworthy in the same light as he doth to him in this history; and he is as much deceived, if he imagines, that the most intimate acquaintance which he himself could have had with that divine, would have informed him of those things, which we, from our inspiration, are enabled to open and discover. Of readers who, from such conceits as these, condemn the wisdom or penetration of Mr. Allworthy, I shall not scruple to say, that they make a very bad and ungrateful use of that knowledge which we have communicated to them.

These apparent errors in the doctrine of Thwackum served greatly to palliate the contrary errors in that of Square, which our good man no less saw and condemned. He thought, indeed, that the different exuberancies of these gentlemen would correct their different imperfections; and that from both, especially

ally with his assistance, the two lads would derive sufficient precepts of true religion and virtue. If the event happened contrary to his expectations, this possibly proceeded from some fault in the plan itself; which the reader hath my leave to discover, if he can; for we do not pretend to introduce any infallible characters into this history; where we hope nothing will be found which hath never yet been seen in human nature.

To return therefore; the reader will not, I think, wonder, that the different behaviour of the two lads above commemorated, produced the different effects, of which he hath already seen some instances; and besides this, there was another reason for the conduct of the philosopher and the pedagogue: but this being matter of great importance, we shall reveal it in the next chapter.

END OF VOL. I. OF THE HISTORY OF TOM JONES.

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